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Tuesday, May 20, 2008 metronews.ca Halifax

How will it move you?

Wii Fit

Guards back after asbestos scare

Officers refusing some assignments as jail deemed safe

By ROBYN YOUNG
Metro Halifax

Corrections officers at the Cape Breton correctional facility were ordered back to work yesterday morning after investigators determined it was safe following last week's asbestos scare, but guards continued to refuse certain assignments.

Jim Gosse, president of Local 480 with the NSGEU, which represents corrections officers in the province, said the guards were advised to go back to work around 4 a.m. but when the shift changed at 7 a.m., the two guards who staff the maximum security area where asbestos is the biggest concern, refused.

"The employer re-assigned one of those individuals and the other one got sent home," he said.

"If you get sent home, they don't have to pay you and you do face potential dis-

off the job

» Over the weekend, about 80 per cent of the jail guards stayed away from the Cape Breton correctional facility and RCMP officers were brought in as replacements.

cipline."

Air quality test results will not be available until tomorrow, but in the meantime an environmental hygienist hired by the Justice Department, Gosse said, made the determination the facility was safe.

Gosse said the asbestos was first noticed by an inmate in March and tests were done on May 1.

No one notified the union, however, until last Thursday.

Further tests were ordered and the unionized corrections officers stopped showing up for work when they caught wind of the situation Thursday evening.

Sherri Aikenhead, spokeswoman for the Justice Department, said they will now follow through with an "asbestos maintenance plan."

"When you have this type of as-

bestos, you have to determine through experts whether you seal things or remove it," she said.

Asbestos is a safety hazard only if it's disturbed, she said.

According to Health Canada's website, asbestos fibres can be breathed into the lungs when there's a high concentration in the air, increasing the chances of lung cancer.

—robyn.young@metronews.ca

more coverage

» For more on the asbestos scare, see p. 4.

» celeb buzz p.26

mrs. wentz

Ashlee, Pete tie knot



» local p.4

Starving polar bears at our doors?



» sports p.14

Heartbreaking loss for Canada as Russia wins Worlds in OT



High 17°
Low 6°
WEATHER P. 25



Congrats, Tony and Michelle!

Tears of joy flowed as Marry Me, Halifax, winning couple Tony Wood and Michelle LeBlanc said their vows at Casino Nova Scotia on Saturday. After weeks of planning and preparation, all with the input of Metro Halifax readers and Marry Me, Halifax, sponsors, the couple said "I do" during an emotional ceremony before an audience of 120 friends and loved ones. Full coverage, Page 20.



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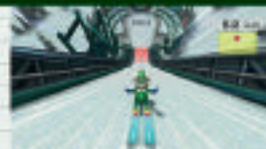
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Fishermen take down harbour blockade

Cape Breton lobster fishermen ended their blockade of Inverness Harbour Sunday, after trapping in several New Brunswick fishing boats.

The blockade started late last week as an act of protest to the federal government to allow the fishermen a share

of the lucrative crab quota, as they currently face rising fuel costs and poor lobster catches.

"We're trying to take the high road on this," said fisherman Lawrence MacLellan.

"We're going to take the blockade down and New Brunswick boats are free to fish ... Hopefully in the future we can fish alongside them."

MacLellan said the New Brunswick fishermen were supportive of the blockade.

He estimates New Brunswick vessels take 500,000 pounds of crab from nearby areas.

The Harbours of Inverness, Mabou, Port Hood and Judique do not have a crab allocation.

Yesterday, the Inverness fishermen were scheduled to meet with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans area manager Helen Kerr.

Kerr could not be reached for comment yesterday.

METRO HALIFAX
— WITH FILES FROM
THE CAPE BRETON POST

Troop deal to benefit Via

But official says money not motive for free rides

By ROBYN YOUNG
Metro Halifax

Via Rail didn't try to hide the fact it would benefit financially from a promotional offer for Canada's military to ride the rails for free during the month of July, a spokesman says.

"Surely, with any promotion that Via or any other company puts in place, you also have to at the same time make a business case for it," said Malcolm Andrews, a spokesman for Via Rail Canada.

The Crown corporation was the subject of criticism yesterday after a report based on an internal document obtained by the Canadian Press said the rail company's motives may not have been completely altruistic.

It suggested the offer was



Donald Wright, chairman of the board of Via Rail Canada, center, announced at the end of March Canadian Forces members could book free train tickets during the month of July as a "thank you" for their work at home and abroad. He's pictured here with former Maritime Atlantic Forces Rear Admiral Dean McCadden, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and two Via employees.

an attempt to increase revenues during July, the slowest travel month of the year.

The president of Via an-

nounced the deal last month at the Halifax train station, saying it was a gesture of appreciation for members of the Canadian Forces.

The offer provides all members, past or present, with free rail travel on Via trains across the country during July and family

«The fact there will be a revenue stream is simply a business fact and not the underlying motive for sure.»

Malcolm Andrews,
Via Rail spokesman

members receive a 50 per cent discount to join them.

Andrews said the business decision was the result of a "two-pronged" approach.

Via officials wanted to find a time when military personnel would be able to take advantage of the offer and found many of them take leave in July.

And they wanted to choose a month when seats would actually be available for booking.

"The fact there will be a revenue stream is simply a business fact and not the underlying motive for sure," he added.

-robyn.young@metronews.ca

Arrest in Gottingen Street fire

Woman charged with torching own residence

By RACHEL BOOMER
Metro Halifax

A 31-year-old woman has been charged with arson after a fire at the Gottingen Street house where she was living.

Kirsten Marie Overton was also charged with breaching her probation and a court-ordered recognizance. She was arrested early Friday morning, after a 12:37 a.m. fire at

residents moved

» The other residents of the building were sent to a temporary shelter. People in the two neighbouring buildings were able to get back into their home Thursday night.

the home forced residents of two neighbouring properties out temporarily.

Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency spokesman Dave Meldrum said the fire was contained in an upper bedroom in a building, in the 2700 block of Gottingen. Smoke

spread through the hallway, but firefighters had the blaze out in less than 20 minutes.

"The door had been burned half off, the smoke was just starting to spread into the hallway," Meldrum said.

When they arrived, a woman told them things that suggested she knew something about the cause, Meldrum said.

"At that point, we handed it over to police."

Halifax Regional Police Const. Jeff Carr said police are still investigating.

-rachel.boomer@metronews.ca

»news In Brief

» **ENERGY** A new study says Nova Scotians are going to be using more renewable electricity over the next five years. Nova Scotia's green electricity is expected to jump to 22 per cent, from about 10 to 12 per cent. Wind power will make up most of the increase — and wind turbines are expected to grow from 60 today to more than 300 in 2013. The study looked at the possible impacts of integrating large-scale wind power into Nova Scotia's electric power system, for the 2010 and 2013 timeframes set by the province's renewable energy standard. While the targets are expected to be met, the study also found that there will be challenges

as well.
» **NOVA SCOTIA BUSINESS JOURNAL**
» **CONVENIENCE** The Irving Mainway on Amherst's South Albion Street is about to undergo a facelift. Irving Oil Ltd. is exiting the convenience store business in Atlantic Canada and New England and is handing over its Blue Canoe, Mainways and Big Stops to Quebec-based Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc. As part of the deal, the Irving Mainways in both Amherst and Oxford will be rebranded. Couche-Tard operates its stores under its name and the Mac's brand. The Aulac Big Stop will maintain its name.

AMHERST DAILY NEWS



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The Scarlet Soiree, a silent celebrity purse auction hosted by female police officers across Nova Scotia for charities in the province, takes place at the World Trade and Convention Centre tomorrow. This year's featured charity is HomeBridge Youth Society, which offers residential care for at-risk youth. Visit www.scarletsoiree.ca for more information. METRO HALIFAX

Polar bears at risk: Biologist

Iverson says arctic species may turn inland for food

By PAUL MCLEOD
Metro Halifax

Starving polar bears may some day have to look inland for food, which could make them a danger to humans, says a Dalhousie University biologist.

Sara Iverson said climate change is putting polar bears in danger. The bears depend on ice flows to feed off of seals in the winter. As the spring comes, the ice melts and the bears move inland. They'll then fast for as long as eight months until the ice reforms.

But in recent years the ice has melted early, forcing the bears inland before they have built up enough fat reserves.

"It's critical that they are able to get that level of fat storage. But if they're forced ashore earlier they're going to be in poor condition and much less likely to survive that fast," said Iverson.

"They're also going to be looking for other food sources, maybe terrestrial kinds of food sources. There's also the problem with interacting with human communities."

Iverson will deliver a public lecture on her research as part of the Canadian Society of Zoologists 2008 Annual Meeting happening this week at Mount Saint Vincent University. The lecture takes place this evening at 5:30 at

the Seton Academic Centre.

Iverson has been researching the top predators in arctic environments to see the effects of the entire ecosystem. While these ecosystems are extremely complex, scientists

«It's a scary situation. Ice-dependent species are really the species of concern. (They) are really the canaries in arctic coal mines.»

Biologist Sara Iverson

can determine a lot by looking at the animals at the top of the food chain.

Her team has been analyzing the diet of polar bears through fat samples, and discovered that their usual seal diet has become

more diverse as they try to adapt to changes in conditions.

"It's a scary situation. Ice-dependent species are really the species of most concern,"



The next generation of polar bears may be forced to turn away from the ice to hunt for food, warns Dalhousie University biologist Sara Iverson.

she said. "(They) are really the canaries in arctic coal mines."

Iverson said more polar bears may enter human communities as they look for new sources of food.

Recently the United States listed polar bears as a threatened species. Canada lists them as a "species of special concern."

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Halifax hosts zoologists conference

The Canadian Society of Zoologists will hold its 2008 annual meeting this week in Halifax at Mount Saint Vincent University.

The conference will bring scientists from all over Canada and guest speakers from as far as the University of Hawaii. The conference runs through Friday and deals with issues from better integrating women in science to comparative morphology and development.

The public is invited to a lecture this evening by Dr. Sarah Iverson about what analysis of large predators can tell us about temperature change in the north and its effects on wildlife. The lecture starts at 5:30 at the Seton Academic Centre.

METRO HALIFAX

Portland elementary reopens after fire

Portland Estates Elementary reopens today after last week's suspicious fire that shut down the school for several days.

The Dartmouth school was evacuated last Tuesday over lunch hour after fire alarms and sprinklers went off, alerting staff to a smouldering backpack hanging in the hallway on the second floor.

Fire officials have said they found matches in the bag and in the boys' washroom, leading them to believe the incident was deliberate. Police have an open file on the incident but have said they don't expect to lay any charges.

A Halifax regional school board spokesman said the principal is dealing with the incident and if students are deemed responsible they will be disciplined accordingly.

Classes were cancelled for three days so workers could repair water damage from the sprinkler system and air smoke out of the building.

METRO HALIFAX

Blue Nose On their mark



Runners in the 10-km race charge out from the starting line at the Blue Nose International Marathon on Sunday. More than 8,000 people took part in events connected with the fifth annual marathon, the highest number of participants so far. Full coverage, Page 12.

Facts on asbestos and lung tissue

Fibres may lead to scarring, cancer: Health Canada

By ROBYN YOUNG
Metro Halifax

Asbestos is the generic name for a variety of fibrous minerals found naturally in rock formations.

Asbestos fibres are strong, durable and non-combustible and therefore used in construction materials, according to the Health Canada website.

If the fibres are enclosed or tightly bound, they are not a significant health risk.

But asbestos fibres can be breathed into the lungs when there's a high concentration in the air, causing scarring to lung tissue and increasing the chances of lung cancer.

A spokesman with Health Canada yesterday said the federal department is aware of the asbestos at the Cape Breton Correctional Facility.

"We've looked into this; we got some calls on this later last week," said Paul Duschene.

He said questions about the situation could be answered by Nova Scotia's Justice Department.

-robyn.young@metronews.ca

»news In Brief

» **GUNSHOTS** Police are still investigating a possible shooting in north-end Dartmouth Monday. Police arrived on scene after someone near Pinecrest Drive reported hearing gunshots at about 3:40 p.m. and seeing a dark-coloured car leave the area. Bullet casings were found in front of a residence on the

100 block of Pinecrest Drive. There are no reported victims.

» **GROW-OP** Police stumbled upon a marijuana grow-op Friday after responding to a 9-1-1 hang-up call at 1 Roywell Dr. in Lawrencetown. No one answered the door but there was a car in the driveway and a neighbour confirmed someone was home. Fearing

for the safety of the person, police entered the home and found about 625 marijuana plants. Two men were arrested on drug charges and several firearms seized.

» **CRASH** A young man is dead after a van and a pick-up truck collided at the intersection of Windermere and Cleveland roads in South Berwick Sunday.

The 22-year-old passenger of the truck was pronounced dead at the scene while a female passenger in the same vehicle was airlifted to the QEII Health Science Centre with serious injuries. The driver of the truck and two passengers in the second vehicle were treated and released from hospital. No one in the truck

was wearing a seatbelt.

» **LURING** A 29-year-old Pictou County man is facing Internet luring charges for luring a child under the age of 14 by computer for a sexual purpose, police say. Shawn Dewaine Cameron will appear in court at a later date. The child was actually an undercover police officer.

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Researchers land \$2M contract

By RACHEL BOOMER
Metro Halifax

Two Dalhousie University researchers have won a \$2-million US contract from Lockheed Martin to work on quantum computing and physics projects.

Dalhousie physicists Kimberley Hall and Jordan Kyriakidis will do basic research into quantum computing, a field that has the potential to change the size and the power of computers.

Ronald Layden, head of industry innovation at Dalhousie, said Thursday quantum computing will be what takes computers further.

"Now, we don't think anything of having a computer in our pocket that can do more than the computer NASA sent to the moon in 1967," Layden said.

"We've reached the limit of what we can do with current systems and computer models. The next level is quantum computing."

-rachel.boomer@metronews.ca

Local geography genius

Grade 9 student finishes second in national contest

By LINDSAY JONES
Metro Halifax

Graham Tompkins has his future mapped out for him.

The Grade 9 student's knack for knowing about the world recently earned him second place in the country's largest student geography competition.

"It covers a lot of topics, not just atlases, (but) weather, land forms, current events," said the Prince Arthur Junior High student.

Graham, 15, qualified for the Great Canadian Geography Challenge nationals after beating 11 others for the provincial title at a recent competition at Saint Mary's University.

The web-based national event was held in schools last week. It involved completing 11 rounds of questions on various geographical topics.

"It was close," Graham said, adding an omen helped



Graham Tompkins, a Grade 9 student at Prince Arthur Junior High in Dartmouth, won second place in a web-based national geography competition last week. He's holding a globe he recently won for placing first in a provinciewide competition.

him along the way.

"There was a book sitting on desk next to me that said 'Believe you can' on it."

Just two points behind the winner, Graham took home second place after defeating three others during a tiebreaker round.

The title earned him a \$2,000 university scholarship and a possible chance to travel to a world competition next year.

"I like to learn about the world," said Graham, who is thinking about becoming a planner. "It's really interest-

ing, more so than any other topic."

His principal Debbie Rowsell said the whole school is proud of Graham's feat.

"This is a huge accomplishment," she said.

-lindsay.jones@metronews.ca

»news In Brief

» **JOBS** All 325 employees of Neenah Paper will keep their jobs when the pulp and paper mill changes hands in the coming months. Employees were pulled into a meeting on the morning of May 15 and told the Abercrombie Point mill will be sold to Atlas Holdings LLC of Connecticut and Blue Wolf Capital Management LLC of New York. The new mill will operate under the name Northern Pulp Nova Scotia Corporation. Neenah announced in March its decision to sell the plant, citing the higher Canadian dollar and a reduced availability of wood chips as contributing factors.

» **FISHING** Nova Scotia's fishing industry could use some of the same fuel cost relief extended earlier this year to farmers, says the head of the Full Bay Scallop Association. Vance Hazelton of Digby says fuel for fishing boats last year ran about 65 cents a gallon, but is now about \$1.09. Hazelton said the provincial government announced a \$2-million subsidy for farmers earlier this year to help offset fuel costs, but has offered nothing for the equally hard-hit fishing industry. The problem is compounded because high costs make it more difficult to attract crew and that has become a problem through the fishing, he said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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The Apollo Group of Phoenix, Ariz., plans to establish an online university in Fredericton that will offer degrees in business and information technology to students across Canada. The minister responsible for Business New Brunswick says Meritus University will create about 100 administration jobs in Fredericton.

METRO HALIFAX



ATV flip kills woman

Belmont mom was taking part in annual rally

DEBERT – A weekend ATV accident has claimed the life of a young Belmont woman.

Thirty-six-year-old Tracey Nichols was killed in an open field on East Folley Mountain Road, Debert Saturday at about 4 p.m.

Denise Nichols, Tracey's mother-in-law, told the Truro Daily News Tracey was participating in an annual ATV rally and the accident occurred when the rig flipped.

"It was a terrible accident. She flew out and it landed on her," said Denise.

Donna Shearer, Tracey's aunt, said the young woman will be missed by many be-

experienced

» Tracey – who had experience ATVer for a number of years – was the mother of four.

cause of her loving nature.

"We're still in shock. She was so loved ... she was very giving and open. She was a great mom and a wonderful,

wonderful wife," said Donna. "She loved company and people and was very outgoing."

Donna said Tracey's strength is a legacy she leaves for the family. Tracey's husband died only a year ago due to a brain tumour and she was a source of deep strength for him during his time of illness, the family said.

THE TRURO DAILY NEWS

High-end campsite opens

A high-end recreational vehicle park that's been in development for three years was set to mark its official opening on Saturday.

The Port Hood and District Recreation Commission looked at developing the park in an effort to boost tourism in the Inverness County community.

The community group was able to raise \$465,000 through a CEDIF (community economic development

boosting tourism

» The co-operative wants to attract high-end campers with three-way hookups on large sites.

investment fund) and construction began last June.

A second share offering that occurred earlier this year raised more than \$250,000, and the group is now making plans for the expansion. THE CAPE BRETON POST

Barefoot Graduation day



RACHEL BOOMER/METRO HALIFAX

Education grad Kimberly Piccott, 23, walks barefoot down the steps at Mount Saint Vincent University after her graduation Friday. More than 700 Mount students graduated Thursday and Friday.

No decision yet on wind power bylaw

Colchester County council has delayed a decision on a bylaw regulating wind power development until further study.

Some councillors were divided on how far the regulations should go following discussion at this week's council committee meeting so the issue has been sent to the municipality's planning advisory committee for more deliberation. Currently, provincial regulations require an environmental as-

essment for wind turbine projects that generate more than two megawatts of electricity. But there are no other guidelines surrounding such development projects. Some county residents have expressed concerns about such issues as constant noise and "flicker" (a sensation causing dizziness resulting from shadows produced by turbine movement) and the potential impact on wildlife.

THE TRURO DAILY NEWS

Massive weapons haul leads to charges

A 21-year-old man will be back in court next week after police found machine guns and assault weapons in his Fairview apartment last Wednesday.

Aside from finding submachine guns and assault rifles, police also found masks, maps of the Halifax area and a book on learning to kill in the Willet Street apartment of Alexander Stuart Lindsay, The Chronicle Herald reported.

Court records allege the weapons were smuggled into Canada from the United States since March of 2006.

family

Lindsay now faces an array of charges, including weapons trafficking, unauthorized possession of firearms, careless storage of firearms, possession of weapons for a dangerous purpose, and two counts of possession of prohibited weapons.

He is also alleged to have violated four sections of the Customs Act by importing restricted or prohibited weapons. Lindsay's bail hearing is set for May 26.

METRO HALIFAX



What do you value about Nova Scotia's natural resources?

The Voluntary Planning Natural Resources Citizen Engagement Committee is holding community meetings throughout the province in May and June.

You are invited to participate and share your ideas about the future of the province's biodiversity, forests, minerals and parks.

Your ideas will help develop a long-term, provincewide natural resources strategy.

Make sure your voice is heard.

Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Black Cultural Centre, 1149 Main Street, Dartmouth

The community meetings will be held in an interactive format where all participants are encouraged to contribute their views in large and small group conversations.

A conversation starter is available at vp.gov.ns.ca, at Access Nova Scotia Centres, or by contacting Voluntary Planning.

Submit your written comments online at: vp.gov.ns.ca

by fax to: 902-424-0580

by email to: volplan@gov.ns.ca

by mail to: Voluntary Planning, Suite 600, 1690 Hollis Street, Halifax, NS B3J 3J9

All submissions must be made by Thursday, July 31, 2008.

For more information on the community meetings or to speak directly with the committee's support staff, call Voluntary Planning at 902-424-8644 or toll-free at 1-866-858-5850.

Part of The New Nova Scotia: Path to 2020.

For information on other strategies and ways you can participate, visit www.gov.ns.ca/2020.

Voluntary Planning is an arm's length Board of the Government of Nova Scotia mandated to engage Nova Scotians on the important policy issues for our future.



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A Citizens' Policy Forum

canada



Peter Phillips became the first of Queen Elizabeth's grandchildren to wed, marrying his Canadian bride Autumn Kelly, left, on Saturday in drizzly weather at a chapel at the queen's Windsor Castle residence near London. Phillips and Kelly met in 2003 at the Montreal Grand Prix. **REUTERS**

An apologetic theme

Atonement time on Parliament Hill

Ottawa has set aside money to commemorate an incident in 1939 when a Jewish refugee ship that fled Nazi Germany was turned away from nation after nation, including Canada. This comes at a time when apologies for — or at least acknowledgement of — historical wrongs abound on Parliament Hill.

Last Thursday, the House passed a private member's motion from Liberal MP Ruby



Long-awaited apology

» Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl announced last week the government will issue its long-awaited official apology to former students of native residential schools on June 11.

Dhalla asking the government to apologize for denying entry to 376 Indian immigrants aboard the Komagata Maru in 1914. The government is expected to fast-track a private member's bill introduced by Tory MP James Bezan that would recognize the 1930s famine in Ukraine as genocide.

The government also re-

cently announced a \$10 million grant in recognition of the Ukrainian and other Eastern European immigrants interned in Canadian work camps during World War I.

No one will come out and say these initiatives are a way for the federal Tories to reach out to the ethnic vote, even though Jason Kenney, who was brought into the federal

cabinet to help engage different communities, is handling the historical recognition programs.

Dhalla noted that Conservatives did not support her motion when she introduced it on April 2 this year. While Prime Minister Stephen Harper did address the tragedy in August 2006, it was only after community outcry this spring that the government announced \$2.5 million in grants to commemorate the incident and then supported her motion. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Conflicts mar celebrations

Dark clouds seem to be permanently stationed over Quebec City's 400th anniversary celebrations.

The year-long event began with an internationally televised fiasco, and has pretty much slid downhill from there, generating headlines because of organizational failings and the various political controversies it has prompted.

While \$5 million has thus far been spent on promoting the celebrations overseas and in the United States, with only marginal returns to date, only about \$500,000 has been splashed out on promoting the event in Quebec.

And according to a recent analysis by a Montreal-based media monitoring firm, the

revenue boost?

» The city continues to project that the celebrations will boost the annual tourism revenues by at least 5 per cent. The summer schedule begins in earnest on June 3, the high point is expected to be a series of concerts and events on July 3, 400 years to the day from Samuel de Champlain's landing.

myriad difficulties plaguing the event have drawn more attention than the celebrations themselves.

The event was thrown into disarray after original organizing committee chair was summarily ousted following the Dec. 31 opening ceremony, broadly considered to be a catastrophe. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

environment

Quebec river nation's dirtiest

INDEX Quebec's Yamaska River has a dubious distinction: according to the federal government, it's the filthiest river in Canada.

Environment Canada's 2007 Canadian Environmental Sustainability Index, which rated 395 rivers and waterways across the country, gave the Yamaska an anemic 27.1 out of a possible 100 points. Biologists say the main culprits are phosphorous, ammonia and nitrates — the results of pesticide and fertilizer runoff and the animal waste from the area's intensive and industrial-scale agriculture.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bareback riding Eight-second winner



Bobby Mote holds on for a full eight seconds to win Bareback Riding at the Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair, the annual event held in Cloverdale, B.C., 40 minutes east of Vancouver. The Oregon native claimed \$20,500 — the biggest cash purse in Canadian rodeo history.

RAE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Anger grows at MP Finley

For tobacco growers in southwestern Ontario, hope has turned to despair. Banks are foreclosing, marriages are dissolving and some growers have even taken their lives.

In Caledonia, a native land dispute has made properties virtually worthless. Residents complain that are two sets of laws — one for natives and one for the residents.

What the tobacco farmers

and the Caledonia residents have in common is anger, much of it directed toward the MP for their Haldimand-Norfolk riding — Conservative Diane Finley.

Caledonia residents feel Finley has abandoned them, while tobacco growers accuse her of failing to live up to her many promises to bring in an aid package that would allow them to turn to other crops or another way of life. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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world

Panic grips region

Chinese pour into streets as second quake predicted

Tens of thousands of panicked residents rushed into the streets of Chengdu in south-

mountains west China early this morning, alarmed by a television report that predicted another powerful earthquake would hit the region.

The pandemonium triggered by the TV report showed how far people's nerves have been stretched by the May 12 earthquake and aftershocks which have killed more than 34,000 people and injured 245,000.



Residents observe a three-minute moment of silence at 2.28pm local time yesterday, exactly one week after an earthquake hit the town of Pingtung, China.

Cars jammed roads leading out of Sichuan's provincial capital of Chengdu and people carrying bedding headed for open ground after hearing that another earthquake of 8-magnitude would shake the ravaged province overnight.

"They quoted a government department, so everyone's heading for clear space. I'd be careful if I were you," called a young man surnamed Huang.

Xinhua news agency reported a magnitude 5.0 aftershock hit Pingwu County early today, causing buildings to creak in Chengdu, about 150 km from the epicentre.

The death toll from last week's quake could rise dramatically, as the Communist Party chief in Sichuan said nearly 30,000 were missing. A further 5,000 are believed still buried under rubble. **REUTERS**

Violence intensifies in South Africa

Mobs armed with knives, clubs and jugs of petrol torched shacks and beat migrant workers yesterday in escalating anti-foreigner violence in Johannesburg squatter camps.

The unrest has killed at least 22 people since last week and increased political instability at a time of electricity shortages, rising inflation and disaffection among the poor over President Thabo Mbeki's pro-business policies.

The attacks started in Alexandria township last week, but have spread into the central business district in South Africa's biggest city, and hit townships in the east of the city yesterday.

REUTERS

Myanmar allows ASEAN aid workers

Cyclone-stricken Myanmar will accept medical workers from Southeast Asian countries to help with the relief effort and is ready to accept international aid agencies, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations said yesterday.

"Myanmar will accept international assistance," Singapore Foreign Minister George Yeo told a news conference

after a meeting of the bloc in the city-state. He said that Myanmar had agreed to accept teams from all ASEAN countries.

"We will establish a mechanism so that aid from all over the world can flow," he said. **REUTERS**

case by case

» Aid workers from non-ASEAN countries will be granted entry to Myanmar on a case-by-case basis.

Clinton not giving up bid

Hillary Clinton had a warning yesterday for rival Barack Obama, who is on the verge of claiming the Democratic nomination: Not so fast.

"This is nowhere near over," Clinton said at a rally in Maysville, Ky., pressing ahead with her long-shot bid for the

White House even as Obama focuses on November's general election match-up with Republican John McCain.

Despite Obama's almost unassailable lead, Clinton repeatedly has shrugged off calls to quit the race before the voting concludes. **REUTERS**

»news In Brief



» **ZIMBABWE** The country's opposition accused military intelligence agents yesterday of a plot to kill party leader Morgan Tsvangirai that it said forced him to postpone his return to the country over the weekend. The government of

President Robert Mugabe, who will face Tsvangirai in a run-off election on June 27, said the allegation was a media stunt.

» **TIBET** Standing before the Brandenburg Gate that straddled Germany's East-

West border, the Dalai Lama hailed the fall of the Berlin Wall as a symbol of peaceful protest in an address to some 20,000 supporters which strove to reassure China he was not seeking Tibetan independence. **REUTERS**

HALIFAX
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

The Municipal Tax System needs to change. We need your help!

The Tax Reform Committee is looking for public feedback on its ideas for a new tax system. The Committee believes a new tax system should be service-based, consider the ability to pay and be based on solid principles. They are also proposing that:

- There would be 9 municipal tax rates, each levied at a flat rate per home, defined by service: hydrants, solid waste, local roads, local transit, sidewalks, community recreation facilities, regional roads, regional transit, and a broad regional tax (for police, fire, libraries, and other costs).
- Multi-unit buildings (apartments and condos) would be taxed at a reduced rate.
- There would be an increase in support for lower-income families.
- The deed transfer tax would be eliminated.
- Assessment would remain on provincial services such as mandatory education.

The Tax Reform Committee will be holding the following Open Houses on municipal tax reform. One Open House will focus on commercial property taxation. Drop by, e-mail, call or write. We want to hear from you!

Wednesday, May 21st
Cole Harbour Place, 7-9 pm

Thursday, May 22nd
Lake Echo Community Centre, 7-9 pm

Friday, May 23rd
Westin Nova Scotian, 7:30 – 9:30 am
* **Commercial taxes**

Monday, May 26th
Dartmouth Sportsplex, Common Room, 7-9 pm

Wednesday, May 28th
St. Agnes Church Hall, Halifax, 7-9 pm

Thursday, May 29th
Bedford Lions Den, 7-9 pm

Wednesday, June 4th
Inn on the Lake, Fall River, 7-9 pm

For more information, please visit www.halifax.ca/taxreform, e-mail taxreform@halifax.ca or call 490-4886.

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business

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Members of the Canadian Auto Workers union have ratified three-year contracts with GM and Chrysler, with approval rates of 84 per cent and 87 per cent, respectively.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

»news In Brief

» **U.S.** Construction starts on new U.S. homes rose by a surprisingly strong 8.2 per cent in April and applications for new building permits turned up for the first time in five months, the Commerce Department said on Friday.

» **CRUDE** Oil rose past \$127 US a barrel yesterday after

OPEC's president insisted the producer group would not increase output at its next meeting in September.

» **AIR** Russia's first new passenger plane since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union, the Superjet-100, took off on its maiden test flight yesterday.

REUTERS

BCE buyout in trouble: Source

Banks reportedly submit 'onerous' new conditions

The \$34.8 billion buyout of BCE Inc. has become more questionable as the banks

funding the deal have sought to renegotiate the financing terms, a source familiar with the situation said yesterday.

The banks behind the buyout of BCE, Canada's largest telecommunications company and operator of Bell

Canada, submitted new financing terms to the buyout group Friday, the source said.

The new set of terms contained higher interest rates and other "onerous" conditions, the source said.

The New York Times said

the new terms submitted by the banks included higher interest rates, tighter loan restrictions and protections that far exceeded the original terms. The buyout group and the banks negotiated all weekend, according to the report. **REUTERS**

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office supplies

Staples launches hostile bid for firm

HOLLAND U.S. office supplies retailer Staples launched a hostile 1.5 billion euro (\$2.34 billion US) bid yesterday for Corporate Express NV because the Dutch office supplier was unwilling to negotiate.

Staples said in a statement that Corporate Express shareholders could tender their shares as of tomorrow until June 27, subject to a possible extension. **REUTERS**

Nintendo Wii getting fit



SHANNON SPATLON/REUTERS

A woman demonstrates an interactive yoga game on Nintendo's Wii Fit, an interactive fitness game for the Wii system, during the product launch yesterday in New York. Analysts expect that up to 30 per cent of the nearly 10 million U.S. Wii owners will buy the product in the next few weeks.

online

Microsoft, Yahoo in new discussions

TALKS Microsoft Corp. has proposed to buy Yahoo Inc.'s search business and take a minority stake in the web pioneer, stopping short of a full-out merger, a person familiar with the talks said yesterday.

As part of the deal, Yahoo would sell its Asian assets including significant minority stakes in Yahoo Japan and China's Alibaba Group, while Microsoft would buy a chunk of what remains of the company, the source said.

automotive

Nissan, NEC to put \$115M into venture

BATTERIES Nissan Motor Co., NEC Corp. and NEC Tokin Corp. said yesterday their battery venture would invest \$115 million US over three years to manufacture lithium-ion batteries starting next year for use in next-generation green vehicles.

REUTERS

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sports



A record 8,000 participated in the fifth annual Blue Nose International Marathon on the weekend, including 3,000 in Saturday's youth run, 350 in the full marathon, 1,800 in the half marathon and 1,600 in the 10 kilometres. METRO HALIFAX

New champ crowned

Melloy wins Blue Nose in first try at full marathon

By **MATTHEW WUEST**
Metro Halifax

Maybe Terry Melloy should start doing full marathons at the Blue Nose International Marathon more often.

After three years of running the half, Melloy finally did a full at the Blue Nose and came away the winner on Sunday.

The Bridgewater native dethroned defending champ and three-time winner David MacLennan, capping a weekend that saw more than 8,000 participants in the fifth annual Blue Nose.

"Every year, I look at running the full and then change my mind," said Melloy, who won the half marathon at the Blue Nose in 2006 and finished third in 2005 and 2007. "I guess I picked the right year to give it a try. I had a lot of fun with it. The crowd was great and the fans really helped keep me going when it was getting tough."

The 48-year-old physical education teacher at Bridgewater Elementary School only started running five years ago, but has won five of seven full marathons since then.

He won the Blue Nose with his third-slowest time, crossing in two hours, 48 minutes and 43 seconds, seven minutes faster than second-place Scott Clark of Summerside, P.E.I.

Clarke said Melloy took over around the 31-kilometre mark, but for Melloy, the whole run was a blur.

"Going across the bridge (to Dartmouth) I was in fifth place and I don't even know what happened," Melloy said. "I don't know where everybody went but I got up there and they said I was in the lead. Everybody just kind of disappeared."

MacLennan, who placed sixth with a time of 3:11:39.2 said his "legs were like jelly from the get-go" and said "not enough



Bridgewater's Terry Melloy ducks under a ribbon to get on the right side of the fence after coming down the wrong chute to the finish area in this year's Blue Nose International Marathon on Sunday. Melloy won with a time of 2:48.45.

training" cost him his fourth Blue Nose win.

"He's getting old," joked Melloy, three years MacLennan's senior.

Bedford's Pierre Laberge placed third in 3:07:09.6; Dartmouth's Dave Nevitt came fourth in 3:08:24.4; and Murray Lowery-Simpson of Hanwell, N.B., came fifth.

"I'm surprised with the win," Melloy said. "There were five people who had run 2:50 marathons. It was the best field they've ever had and I was surprised to come out on top."

Leah Jabbour of Clayton Park took her second consecutive female title in 3:17:12.5, although she didn't find out until about an hour after the race. An-

other runner finished before Jabbour, but a wrong turn invalidated her winning time.

"When you're on the race route you have no idea where you're finishing," said Jabbour, who was told all along she was in second. "I assumed I was No. 2 and I ran the best I could."

Dartmouth's Sebastian Flynn won the half in 1:13:32.5. Bedford's Robyn Erickson was the top woman in 1:24:53.6.

Halifax natives Philip Rasmussen and Emily Hamilton won the men's and women's titles in the 10-kilometre race, while Middleton's James Hayward and Halifax's Eskedar Temesgen captured the five-kilometre crowns.

—matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Dartmouth takes aim at nationals

Moosehead Dry seek 6th title in row

By **MATTHEW WUEST**
Metro Halifax

There will be a little bit of added incentive for Dartmouth Moosehead Dry's competitors this season.

Usually, there's not much drama in the Nova Scotia Senior Baseball League, with the Dry having won five straight championships and 13 of the past 17 titles.

But this year, if Dartmouth does the expected and wins again, the runner-up books a ticket to the 2009 Canadian senior baseball championship, which Dartmouth is hosting.

"Teams will be gunning to make the finals because they know it guarantees them a spot at nationals," said Dry player-coach Darren Doucette, a nine-time home-run champ.

Not much has changed for Dartmouth this season, but it

has added pitching depth with the return of Trevor Zwaan and the addition of Hammonds Plains native Craig Langille, a former Milwaukee Brewers draft pick and farmhand.

"You can never have enough pitching," Doucette said. "Anytime you can add a quality arm, you do it."

The season opens tonight at 7:30 p.m. with the Halifax Pelham Canadians visiting the Truro Bearcats. Dartmouth visits the Kentville Wildcats tomorrow at 7:30 p.m., then hosts the Bearcats on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Beazley Field.

Doucette said the Sydney Soomers may be Dartmouth's biggest challenger, but admits his team is the favourite.

"You'd have to consider us the team to beat," he said. "Defending champs and 13 championships in the past 17 years. I guess we're what everybody guns for. Every team shows up to play us like it's the seventh game of the World Series."

»sports In Brief

» **BASKETBALL** The Ottawa All-Blacks beat Toronto's TG For Life 93-86 to win the 36th annual Provincial Black Basketball Association championship on Sunday at The Tower. Ottawa featured local university products Eric Breland (Cape Breton), Achuil Lual (Acadia) and Dion Williams (St. Francis Xavier),

as well as Carleton Ravens legend Osvaldo Jeanty.

» **HOCKEY** Shawn Matthais scored twice to pace the Belleville Bulls to a 6-3 victory over the Gatineau Olympiques at the Memorial Cup last night in Kitchener, Ont. The Bulls are 1-1 in the round-robin, while the Olympiques are 0-2.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Locals closing in on Games spots

By **MATTHEW WUEST**
Metro Halifax

Canada has qualified for all 12 sprint canoe-kayak events at the Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, and a couple of Nova Scotians are closing in on earning spots.

A successful weekend at the Pan American canoe-kayak championships helped Canada clinch the spots and top its previous best Olympic total of 10 boats in 2004.

Two-time Olympian Karen Furneaux of Waverley con-

tinued a strong spring season with a win in the K-1 500 metres on Sunday, while Andrew Russell of Dartmouth and Gabriel Beauchesne-Sevigny of Trois-Rivières, Que., won the C-2 500.

Furneaux also qualified Canada's K-4 boat on Saturday. Russell and Beauchesne-Sevigny did the same in the K-2 1,000.

"We're really thrilled with qualifying all the boats for the Olympics," said Graham Barton, the high performance director for the national team.

"It was a real team effort."

World and Olympic champion Adam van Koeverden is the only paddler who is assured of an Olympic nomination.

Furneaux and Russell are front-runners for Olympic spots, while several others Bluenosers could qualify. They will all battle for spots at World Cup events in Europe in June, with the final assessment to be finalized on June 16.

Nova Scotia sent five paddlers to the 2004 Olympics.

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Cole Harbour's Sidney Crosby, left, and the Pittsburgh Penguins roared into the Stanley Cup final for the first time in 16 years with an emphatic 6-0 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on Sunday.

REUTERS

Wings soar into Cup final

Detroit wraps up West with dominating victory

RED WINGS 4 STARS 1

Henrik Zetterberg registered a goal and an assist, as Detroit secured a berth in the Stanley Cup final for the first time since capturing the title in 2002 with a 4-1 win over Dallas at American Airlines Center.

Dallas Drake also posted a goal and an assist for the Red Wings, who won the Western Conference finals, 4-2. Chris Osgood stopped 28-of-29 shots to pick up the win.

The Red Wings will be going for their fourth championship since 1997 and 11th overall in the franchise's storied 82-year history.

Stephane Robidas tallied the lone goal for the Stars, while Marty Turco allowed four goals on 29 shots in defeat.

Dallas was on the verge of being swept after Detroit won the first three games of this conference finals series, and became the 13th team out of 153 in NHL history to force a Game 6.

But Detroit, playing without forward Johan Franzen, who missed his fifth straight game with concussion-like symptoms and defenceman Chris Chelios due to a lingering leg injury,



Detroit Red Wings forward Pavel Datsyuk celebrates his goal against the Stars last night during Game 6 of the Western Conference finals in Dallas. The Red Wings will play the Pittsburgh Penguins in the Stanley Cup final beginning on Saturday.

closed the series out with a dominating performance, and will battle Pittsburgh, after the Penguins needed only five games to dispatch the Philadelphia Flyers in the Eastern Conference finals.

Games 1 and 2 of the final are scheduled for Saturday and Monday in Detroit.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Wii Fit

How will it move you?

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The Evil Empire will rise again

If you detest the multi-zillionaire New York Yankees — if you loathe the so-called Evil Empire so much that you are as openly ecstatic as Toronto sportscaster Mike Wilner was yesterday on the air, when he unabashedly declared his “love” for the

team's miseries and last-place status — well, enjoy the moment. It may not last long.

The Yanks are a mere 20-24 and coming off an embarrassing Subway Series sweep against their geographic ri-



YORK REPORT
MARTY YORK
marty.york@metronews.ca

With power hitters such as Magglio Ordonez and Miguel Cabrera, this team entered the season poised to lead the major leagues in offence and threaten the 1,000-run plateau. Instead, the AL's cellar-dwellers have been unproductive and shut out an MLB-high seven times.

Manager Jim Leyland met Tigers chief Dave Dombrowski yesterday for some brainstorming.

“I’m totally out of answers,” Leyland said. “I’ve never been this baffled.”

» The Boston Red Sox, meanwhile, keep improving. The World Series champions may now be on the verge of acquiring veteran shortstop Omar Vizquel from the San Francisco Giants. Vizquel and Boston slugger Manny Ramirez are best pals ...

Ramirez is closing in on his 500th career home run and A-Rod has taped a congratulatory message for him that will be played at Boston's Fenway Park, which has irked Yankee fans and the club's Baby Boss, Hank Steinbrenner ... He might be a bit shaky at times, but consider B.J. Ryan's operation (he missed last season because of Tommy John surgery) a success. Ryan gives the Blue Jays as reliable a closer as there is in baseball ... And, according to U.S. insider Ken Rosenthal, the Jays are one of eight clubs that could pursue star outfielder Matt Holliday, who'll likely be served up soon as trade bait by the Colorado Rockies.

In three-plus decades as a columnist and broadcaster, Marty York has built a network of solid contacts and a renowned reputation for his hard-hitting, groundbreaking style. The tradition continues in Metro Sports.

»sports In Brief

» **MLB** Boston left-hander Jon Lester made history last night by pitching the 18th no-hitter in Red Sox history, as Boston beat the Kansas City Royals 7-0. Lester struck out nine and issued only two walks.

» **GOLF** Tiger Woods plans to play in this year's Buick Open in Michigan beginning June 26, marking his return from left knee surgery he underwent in mid-April.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

CONFERENCE FINALS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

PHILADELPHIA VS. PITTSBURGH

Game 5 — Sunday

Pittsburgh 6 Philadelphia 0

(Pittsburgh wins series 4-1)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

DALLAS VS. DETROIT

Game 6 — Last night

Detroit 4 Dallas 1

(Detroit wins series 4-2)

NBA

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

BOSTON VS. CLEVELAND

Game 7 — Sunday

Boston 97 Cleveland 92

(Boston wins series 4-3)

DETROIT VS. ORLANDO

(Detroit wins series 4-1)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

L.A. LAKERS VS. UTAH

(L.A. Lakers win series 4-2)

NEW ORLEANS VS. SAN ANTONIO

Game 7 — Last night

San Antonio 91 New Orleans 82

(San Antonio wins series 4-3)

CONFERENCE FINALS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

BOSTON VS. DETROIT

Game 1 — Tonight

Detroit at Boston, 9:30

Game 2 — Thursday

Detroit at Boston, 9:30

Game 3 — Saturday

Boston at Detroit, 9:30

Game 4 — Monday, May 26

Boston at Detroit, 9:30

WESTERN CONFERENCE

L.A. LAKERS VS. SAN ANTONIO

Game 1 — Tomorrow

San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 10

Game 2 — Friday

San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 10

Game 3 — Sunday

L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 9:30

Game 4 — Tuesday, May 27

L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 10

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Boston 7 Kansas City 0

Texas at Minnesota

Tampa Bay at Oakland

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Washington 4 Philadelphia 0

Chicago Cubs 7 Houston 2

San Francisco at Colorado

St. Louis at San Diego

Cincinnati at L.A. Dodgers

TODAY'S GAMES

Washington 4 Philadelphia 0

Chicago Cubs 7 Houston 2

San Francisco at Colorado

St. Louis at San Diego

Cincinnati at L.A. Dodgers

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Boston 7 Kansas City 0

Texas at Minnesota

Tampa Bay at Oakland

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Washington 4 Philadelphia 0

Chicago Cubs 7 Houston 2

San Francisco at Colorado

St. Louis at San Diego

Cincinnati at L.A. Dodgers

Washington 4 Philadelphia 0

Chicago Cubs 7 Houston 2

San Francisco at Colorado

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San Francisco at Colorado

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Cincinnati at L.A. Dodgers

Washington 4 Philadelphia 0

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Halifax and Quebec City combined to register the third-highest attendance figure in IIHF World Championship history. Final attendance was 477,040, behind the Czech Republic in 2004 (552,097) and Finland in 1997 (526,000). METRO HALIFAX

Heartbreaking loss for Canada

Kovalchuk finishes off Russia's golden victory

RUSSIA 5 CANADA 4 (OT)

Overtime is called sudden death, and it sure felt like that for the Canadians as they stood at the blue-line, stoically watching a tangle of Russian players celebrate their world hockey championship on Sunday in Quebec City.

For much of the afternoon, it appeared Canada would be golden again as a thrilling final careened into the third period with the hosts ahead 4-2.

But suddenly, with the Russians coming in waves and Canada sitting back, that lead evaporated into a 4-4 tie. Then, with the game and the stomachs of onlookers knotted, Canada's Rick Nash took a delay of game penalty early in overtime.

That was the cue to Ilya Kovalchuk to start the party for Team Russia as he ripped a power-play snapshot to the top corner past Canadian goal-



Russia's Alexander Radulov kisses the trophy as his teammates celebrate their overtime win over Canada in the gold-medal game at the 2008 IIHF World Championships on Sunday in Quebec City.

tender Cam Ward.

"Probably everybody is drunk right now in Moscow and all of Russia,"

said an elated Kovalchuk.

"This is sweet."

For the Russians, the explosion of

emotion was 15 years in the making at this tournament. They danced around the Skodas parked in the face-off circles, had team group hugs and, in one of those magical moments that transcends generations, iconic legend Vladislav Tretiak stood with young great Alexander Ovechkin, their arms around each other's shoulders, belting out the Russian national anthem.

All the while, the Canadians stood and watched.

"No one on this team came here to win silver," said Ward. "It's tough right now because you do feel like you let your country down. But there will be other tournaments, there will be more to come."

Dany Heatley set Canada's tournament record for goals with 12 and tied the points record with 20.

Despite the loss, Canada jumped past Sweden for No. 1 in the IIHF world ranking, and will be in a pool with the U.S. and Switzerland at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver. Russia climbed to second.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SCOREBOARD

IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

FINAL SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	P
Heatley, Cda	12	8	20
Getzlaf, Cda	3	11	14
Nash, Cda	6	7	13
Semin, Rus	6	7	13
Weinhandl, Swe	5	8	13
Ovechkin, Rus	6	6	12
Fedorov, Rus	5	7	12
Green, Cda	4	8	12
Kessel, U.S.	6	4	10
Roy, Cda	5	5	10
Kane, U.S.	3	7	10
St. Louis, Cda	2	8	10
T.Kaberle, Cze	1	9	10
Elias, Cze	6	3	9
Brown, U.S.	5	4	9
M.Koivu, Fin	4	5	9
Martensson, Swe	4	5	9
Burns, Cda	3	6	9
Visnovski, Svk	2	7	9
Parise, U.S.	5	3	8
Kovalchuk, Rus	2	6	8
Martin, U.S.	1	7	8
Kotlik, Cze	5	2	7
Vrbata, Cze	5	2	7

FINAL GOALTENDING LEADERS

	MIN	GAA	%
Nabokov, Rus	302	1.78	.929
Leclaire, Cda	240	2.00	.925
Backstrom, Fin	483	2.11	.922
Lasak, Svk	245	2.20	.906

AWARDS

Top goalie: Evgeni Nabokov, Rus.
Top defenceman: Brent Burns, Cda.
Top forward: Dany Heatley, Cda.
MVP: Dany Heatley, Cda.

ALL-STARS

Goalie: Evgeni Nabokov, Rus.
Defence: Mike Green, Cda; Tomas Kaberle, Cze.
Forwards: Dany Heatley, Cda; Alexander Ovechkin, Rus; Rick Nash, Cda.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

The Newbridge Academy Senators competed in the Young Stars Tournament in Leksands, Sweden in April. The team is comprised of players born in 1994 from around the province and three players from Sweden. All of the players would like to thank the generous sponsors for allowing them the opportunity to participate in this amazing cultural experience.

For information on attending future European Tournaments please contact Newbridge Academy at 902 252 3339.

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Credit squeezes reader

Q Last December, I purchased a condo, but I didn't anticipate all the costs of homeownership and used some other sources to close and finance. In addition to my mortgage, I have three credit cards, two department store cards, and a line of credit. Which should I pay down first — the biggest loans, the mortgage or the other loans?

— ANNA

A Borrowers should pay down debts that carry the highest interest rates such as department store and credit cards. If you receive a "Congratulations, we are increasing your credit limit" notice from your department store or credit card company, decline the increase.

Consolidate your debts by increasing lower-inter-

MONEY MATTERS

HENRY CHOO CHONG
choochonghcg@yahoo.ca

est LOCs and pay off the cards. Then dispose of some cards, and keep no more than the number of hands — not fingers — you have.

More than 60 per cent of Canadians own their own home; it's a worthwhile aspiration. But many first-time buyers underestimate closing and monthly carrying costs. For example, costs incurred on closing can include land transfer tax, appraisal fees, legal fees and disbursements, a portion of property taxes, utilities, new home warranties and so on.

Henry Choo Chong, CGA provides professional accounting and taxation solutions for individuals, businesses and corporations. E-mail all questions to Money Matters: choochonghcg@yahoo.ca.

Planning budget-wise holidays

Check out what's on in your city

Q My husband and I are trying to plan a summer getaway but after looking at our finances, we're wondering if we can even afford it. Do you have any suggestions for getting away for less?

— SARAH S.

A As summer approaches, more and more of our readers are expressing similar concerns. But even if a vacation seems out of reach this year, there is a way to get away.

Who said travel had to involve leaving your city? In every town, there are tons of attractions which locals never visit or may not even know about.

Here are a few tips on being a tourist in your own town, Smart-Cookie style.



SMART COOKIES
www.smartcookies.com

First things first. As a tourist, you'll need to re-search as to what your hometown has to offer. Hit your computer and look up your city's visitor center's Web site. Also, check out sites such as tripadvisor.com to find out what tourists are visiting in your city and when.

Most metropolitan cities throughout Canada offer cultural neighborhoods and districts, as well as the theatre and entertainment

districts. Try experiencing a new ethnic cuisine, or hit a local theatre. One of our favorites is our locale Chinese night market where you can find anything from cheap knockoff purses to the latest kitchen gadget. And for last minute theatre and entertainment tickets for up to 50 per cent off, check out www.ticketstonight.ca.

Think that hotels are only for out of town guests? Think again. Getting away from your regular surroundings and staying in a hotel for a night could be exactly what the doctor ordered.

Many hotels offer discounts to locals — all you have to do is ask! And if you have the flexibility to stay at a hotel mid-week, rather than the weekend, or even in the off-season,

prices can be even better.

To truly experience the city and to help save the planet, leave your car at home and travel like a tourist. Most major cities offer transit systems or special tourist buses which can get you to all the major attractions. And with the price of gas these days, you will likely save money as well. The key is to have fun without spending a fortune.

If you have questions for the Smart Cookies, e-mail us at smartcookies@metronews.ca. And don't forget to check us out every Wednesday on the W Network in our new time slot at 9 p.m. EST/PST.

The Smart Cookies show you their way to financial freedom. Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network. Be sure to visit smartcookies.com to get new money tips and sign up for our newsletter.

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workology



Forty-three per cent of working moms would take a pay cut to spend more time with their kids a CareerBuilder.com survey found — with 34 per cent of them stating they would be willing to give up 10 per cent or more.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Turn down a job in good faith

Be honest, but don't be rude, consultant advises

By **RACHEL BOOMER**
Metro Halifax

So, your job hunt was a raging success.

You've got more than one offer on the table, and you've got to turn somebody down.

Let them down easy, and always keep your own good reputation in mind, says Stephen Pamenter, a consultant with Halifax headhunting firm Robertson Surrette.

"Any time you deal with a potential employer, you have to be very careful not to tar-

nish your personal brand," Pamenter says.

"Halifax is a small market. You're going to see those people at industry dinners and functions; your company might do business with their company."

Be honest, Pamenter says

«Any time you deal with a potential employer, you have to be very careful not to tarnish your personal brand.»

Stephen Pamenter

— at least, to a point. It's fair to say you have other offers; if a company really wants you, they may move the process along more quickly, or be more willing to come up with a better salary or vacation package.

If you're moving, or your family situation has changed, a potential employer should understand. If the job doesn't pay as well as



Stephen Pamenter, consultant with the Halifax headhunting firm Robertson Surrette, says job-hunters should keep their reputation, or "personal brand," in mind when turning down a job offer.

the offer you're accepting, it's fair to say so. Companies should know if their salary

and benefits aren't competitive, and they'll appreciate knowing that's why they lost

you.

But don't get into too many details, even if you're

asked. If you couldn't stand the person who interviewed you or just got a bad vibe from the place, it's better to say the job wasn't a good fit.

Don't tell a company the job you applied for isn't what you want: "One of the worst things is when a potential employee turns down a job based on things they've known from the beginning," Pamenter says.

If a company has done several interviews, called your references and made an effort to come up with the salary you want, turning them down is likely to ruffle feathers, so make sure you don't lead a potential employer on if you don't want the job.

"You'll come to a point where you'll reach a hypothetical deal. If you turn it down then, you're not bargaining in good faith."

—rachel.boomer@metronews.ca

Young brains excel at international science fair

By **RAFAEL BRUSILOV**
for Metro Halifax

Desires to both learn about the world and work to change it for the better motivate 16 of Canada's brightest young minds.

Hailing from high schools across all parts of the country, the 16 teenaged finalists chosen to represent Canada at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair beamed with excitement at a recent showcase event before heading off to the site of

this year's 11th annual fair in Atlanta, Ga.

"It's definitely been an experience of a lifetime," said Michael Peters, 16, from Victoria, B.C.

His invention is the definition of simplicity: a wheelchair that straps the user's legs into an array that keeps them in motion as the chair moves to prevent dangerous blood clots. Peters' grandmother suffered a stroke in 2002 so he built the chair with her legacy in mind. Peters designed his chair to be

easily manufactured because he hopes it will go into real production.

"Often the best solutions to the most difficult problems are the simplest," Peters said.

Other finalists also had strong personal reasons for their research. Yale Michaels, a 16-year-old student from Winnipeg, Man., designed a way to better differentiate cancerous and non-cancerous cells in a person's body. His own grandmother died of cancer.

"Everyone knows some-

one who has been affected by cancer," Michaels said.

Doug Cooper, country manager for Intel Canada, says Intel sees the annual fair as a key lifeline for developing the kind of talent central to their own success.

"The skills we see represented here are fundamental to the viability of our business," Cooper said.

"This is university-grade science," he said.

Cooper suggests the biggest difference between science fairs 11 years ago

and today is that the kids are much more prepared to take ownership of their intellectual properties.

Some are already thinking business: Peters has already started the patent process on his blood-clot-preventing wheelchair, while 16-year-old Roopa Suppiah from Deep River, Ont., greeted interviewers with her own business cards. Her project found an economically viable way to reduce the greenhouse gas effect by converting carbon dioxide from

wide variety

» Other projects included better solar panels to maximize energy collection, a way to use bacteria to regulate diseases like HIV and rheumatoid arthritis and even a new method for attaching horseshoes to horses' hooves without nails.

emissions into useful organic materials like ethanol.

The fair was held May 11-17th in Atlanta and 10 of the 16 Canadian teens placed in the top four award categories for their respective areas.

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We'll be featuring some of your nominees in our Going Green section, running monthly in Metro Halifax.



metro

Do it daily.



Swimming and yoga, below, are considered to be "allergy-friendly" exercises, while jogging is among the worst, experts say.

Fitness nothing to sneeze at

Allergy sufferers need not forgo outdoor exercise

By **BRIAN TOWIE**
for Metro Halifax

If you're the outdoorsy athletic type, it's the perfect time of year to head outside for some fresh air and exercise. But if you're also the allergic type, there's no worse season to do it.

Pollens, dust mites, moulds, animal dander, grasses and rag weed are among other substances ready and waiting to take your breath away this season, but that doesn't mean you should confine yourself to staying indoors. There are various ways you can enjoy the great outdoors and keep your allergic reactions to a minimum, experts say,

and some of them are fairly simple.

"The message from allergists is don't suffer. Don't tough it out," says Dr. Susan Waserman, an allergist at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont. "Allergy season is very long and its effects work, school and play. There's enough data now that says it can be a great interference."

Dr. Mark Greenwald of the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology says aside from treating your allergies

with immunizing shots, dedicated exercisers can work out later in the day when cooling air currents drop and the pollens they carry are at their lowest counts.

Waserman says this may not be so ideal for today's high-powered nine-to-five, however.

"It's the classic advice we (allergists) give people, and we realize how impractical this is," says Waserman. "We don't want people to have to go to these dramatic measures in order for people to work out effectively. We'd like

them to see their doctors and medicate."

You can also reduce your reactions based on your surroundings, and the activities you do. Beaches and concrete areas are better suited than forests or anywhere else with heavy vegetation,

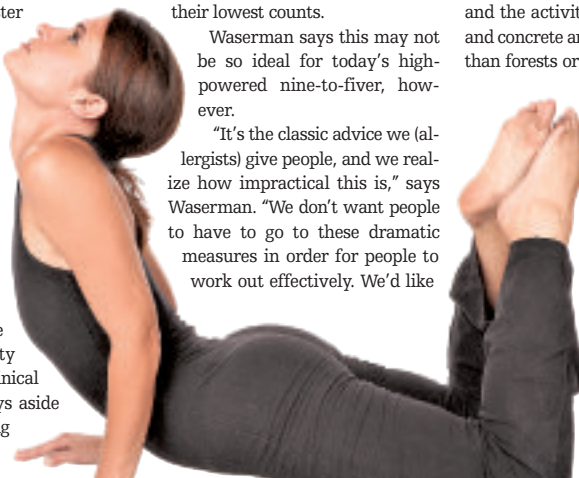
Waserman says.

More "allergy-friendly" exercises include swimming and yoga, experts advise, while jogging is among the worst. Because of quicker breathing, runners will intake pollens at a faster rate, says Greenwald, adding you should intake air through the nose.

"Mouth breathing gives allergens a more direct route to the lungs," Greenwald says. "The function of the nose, other than humidifying and warming the air, is a filter. If you eliminate the filter, a blocked nose for example, you're going to switch to mouth breathing earlier. We can get our lungs to react with spasms and inflammation."

But the best advice, allergists say, is to recognize and deal with the problem that causes reactions.

"Run a very sharp knife across the palm of your hand," says Greenwald. "How long did it take for the damage to occur? Not long. How long will it take you to get better? A lot longer. Same idea with allergies. The spasm is short, but it's the stuff going on inside you that's causing you to feel what you feel and it should be treated."



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Allergy-free travel real possibility

Reactions can take the fun out of a vacation

Despite the high cost of fuel and long airline security lines, millions of summer travellers will be hitting the roads and airports this summer for vacation. But for the seasonal allergy sufferer, travelling can produce unique obstacles and challenges, particularly in the summer.

"Vacations bring people outdoors to explore new sights or enjoy the weather. But more time outdoors means increased exposure to common al-



lergy and asthma triggers, including pollen, mould spores, stinging insects and air pollution," Dr. Estelle Levetin, vice chair of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) Aerobiology Committee, said in a statement issued by the academy.

The resulting reactions, which can range from bothersome to life-threatening, can quickly take the fun out of a vacation. "But with proper preparation, you can minimize your risk of a severe allergic reaction or asthma attack," Levetin said.

Whether travelling by car, train, bus or plane, the AAAAI offers several simple steps to help allergy sufferers enjoy a reaction-free vacation.

Wii Fit
How will it move you?

Wii Fit is a trademark of Nintendo. © 2008 Nintendo.

When driving, turn on the air conditioner and air out the car for 10 minutes before a long road trip to get rid of allergens such as dust mites, indoor moulds and pollen that are often found in the carpeting, upholstery and ventilation systems of vehicles.

The AAAAI also recommends travelling in the early morning or late evening to avoid high mid-day air pollution levels and heavy, idling traffic. Keep windows closed when driving to prevent pollen and other allergens from getting into the car.

If you're flying to your summer vacation destination, be sure to pack all allergy and asthma medications in your carry-on bag. And food allergic people should stay away from airline food and opt for snacks brought from home and carry an EpiPen in case of a severe reaction while in flight.

Using a saline nasal spray to keep your nasal passages moist is another good idea, because air in planes is very dry and can aggravate allergy symptoms, according to the AAAAI.



Sure, driving a convertible on a summer road trip sounds like fun, but if you have allergies, you should keep your windows closed to prevent pollen and other allergens from getting into the car, experts suggest.

When staying in hotels, allergy and asthma sufferers should request an allergy-proof room, which can include special rooms, pillows or linens, or ask for a room that is located in a dry, sunny area, away from the pool. Run the room air conditioner instead of opening the windows. Ask about the hotel's pet

policy and request a room that is pet-free.

Avoid using the hotel closet or drawers if you are allergic to mould spores. These areas are great breeding grounds.

» For more on planning an allergy- and asthma attack-free summer vacation, visit www.aaaai.org. **REUTERS**

Outdoor fun can spice up a relationship

It may have been cold this long weekend, but many of us have found a perfect way to keep warm while still enjoying the great outdoors. Seven out of 10 Canadians say they have had sex while camping, suggests a survey of 700 people by Trojan Thin-tensity condoms, with women more likely than men to admit to enjoying our outdoor adventures.

For Stephanie Nairn, 25, getting wild in the wilderness isn't the primary agenda for pitching a tent

and setting up camp, but it is a great way to connect with her partner.

"When you are camping it can be very intimate and romantic. It's good quality time with each other and that is what often leads to the sex," she says.

But if this past weekend didn't find you reconnecting with nature ... and your partner, remember camping season has only just begun.

Sarah Forbes-Roberts, co-owner of Come As You Are sex store, believes getting



DATING JUNGLE
KASIA IGLINSKI
datingjungle@metronews.ca

down and dirty in the great outdoors is a perfect way to spice up a relationship.

"People do get stuck in sexual ruts and (sex out-

side) creates that element of something new and exciting," says Forbes-Roberts. "Plus there is something to be said about having sex in the wilderness that feels deliciously risky."

Although it may be wise to pack some lube, condoms and maybe even a solar-powered vibrator for the sexually adventurous along with that sleeping bag and tent, Forbes-Roberts says the best summer memories are likely to be born out of spontaneity

and picking the right moment.

"Try using what you have around you," suggests Forbes-Roberts. "Bring that air mattress out (of the tent) or try using some picnic tables to your advantage."

Just be mindful of splinters, mosquitoes and neighbouring campers — unless, of course, you want your sexual exploits posted on YouTube.

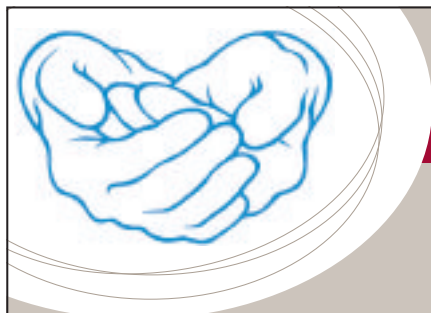
Kasia Iglinski is a journalist who enjoys her work and her dating life. Armed with a notepad and a curious mind, she's always on the prowl for a good story and a good date.

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5IVE

Worst spots outdoors to have sex:

1. Close to poison ivy
2. On a red ant hill
3. In a canoe, below
4. On the edge of a cliff
5. In a Porta-Potty

— Kasia Iglinski/for Metro Halifax



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ALLERGY ASTHMA INFORMATION ASSOCIATION



Soy, rice milk good alternatives

alive

From the editors of alive magazine; alive.metro@alive.com

Looking for an alternative to cows' milk? You're not alone: Many people today are facing this challenge. Drinking cows' milk is a problem for people with lactose intolerance and/or dairy allergies.

MILK ALLERGY

Commonly confused with lactose intolerance, a milk allergy involves the immune system, which fails to recognize the proteins in milk as safe, and instead treats them as foreign invaders — the same way the immune system treats bacteria and viruses.

The result is a release of inflammatory mediators, and an unhappy and unhealthy digestive tract. A milk allergy typically involves many parts of the body and can manifest itself as swelling, hives, rashes, nasal congestion, asthma, nausea, diarrhea, or gas.

MILK ALTERNATIVES

A quick visit to the local health food store offers a number of milk alternatives, such as soy, almond, rice, oat, potato, and coconut milk. These products do not contain casein, the main protein found in cows' milk.

LACTOSE INTOLERANCE

Lactose is a sugar in cows' milk that many people are unable to digest. Lactose intolerance is a condition in which the gastrointestinal tract contains insufficient lactase, the enzyme that digests lactose.

Lactose intolerance exhibits symptoms such as lower intestinal cramping, bloating, gas, and diarrhea. Luckily, milk alternatives such as almond, rice, and soy beverages naturally contain no lactose.

gens in soy milk are thought to slow bone loss; and the American Heart Association recommends that soy products be included in a healthy diet. Soy can also help reduce the risk of heart disease, lower cholesterol, and control glucose levels.

If you suffer from dairy allergies or lactose intolerance, there are many alternatives to cows' milk offered at your local health food store.

» For more, visit alive.com.

alive is Canada's award-winning natural health and wellness magazine. Every month alive focuses on traditional and holistic healing, beauty, environmental issues, nutrition, emotional well-being, and supplementation. Pick alive up for free at your natural health store. Visit alive.com for more.

SOY BENEFITS

Choosing soy as an alternative to cows' milk has other advantages: The phytoestro-



Drinking cows' milk can be a problem for those with lactose intolerance and/or dairy allergies.

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entertainment

Marry Me, Halifax concluded Saturday with Tony Wood and Michelle LeBlanc's dream wedding at Casino Nova Scotia. Metro Halifax would like to thank all the readers who participated as well as the event sponsors, listed below.



Ready for happily ever after

thank you

Metro Halifax would like to thank the sponsors of Marry Me, Halifax:

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METRO HALIFAX



TARRAH MILLS/TARRAH MILLS PHOTOGRAPHY

After months of preparation, and lots of help from Metro Halifax readers and Marry Me, Halifax sponsors, Tony Wood and Michelle LeBlanc were all smiles on their wedding day.

By LINDSEY KEILTY
for Metro Halifax

If there's one thing everyone learned at Saturday's Marry Me, Halifax wedding, it's that many hands make light work.

From the early-morning hours, decorators, vendors and set-up crews worked busily to prepare the elegant Compass Room at Casino Nova Scotia for Michelle LeBlanc and Tony Wood's dream wedding.

Since winning the \$20,000 wedding, the Amherst couple has been travelling back and forth to Halifax to work with all of the generous local supporters, and everyone pitched in happily to see the big day to fruition.

Golden harp and flute melodies, performed by Saeed, welcomed the bride as she clutched her dad's arm on the way down the aisle. Tony's emotions were evident when he first laid eyes on Michelle. She was radiant in her Sottero & Midgley gown and sparkling tiara.

Maid of Honour and daughter of the bride Ashley Bickerton and bridesmaids Jodie Wood, Karin Reid-LeBlanc and Lisa Gottschalk were elegant in custom-designed ocean blue and ivory gowns created by Marie MacMullan. Best man Dan MacDonald and groomsmen, Jordan Lorette, Dave MacLeod and Jon Chandler looked sharp in black tuxedos.

About 120 guests seated in elegant white chairs with ocean-blue sashes formed a circle around the bride and groom. Tony and Michelle exchanged vows and rings at the centre of the round room with officiant Josephine Egan making it all official.

The couple's one-year-old daughter Anna caused a few laughs when she latched on to her mom's veil, pausing the ceremony to avoid a near wardrobe malfunction.

Bright blue beta fish in individual crystal bowls, all situated in groups of four to represent the family — Michelle, Tony, and daughters Ashley and Anna — and lots of candle light created an intimate atmosphere.

Photographer Tarrah Mills captured the day's special moments, from the bridal party getting dressed to the couple's first dance as husband and wife to Garth Brook's To Make You Feel My Love.



TARRAH MILLS/TARRAH MILLS PHOTOGRAPHY

Michelle's daughter Ashley hammed it up while helping her mom get dressed before the ceremony.

Mahogany Marcial, owner of Events Specialists, and her assistant Megan MacKeigan kept every detail in check, while Wild Lupin Video husband and wife team Brian and Kelly Cottam got the whole event on tape.

A faithful online voter stopped by before the ceremony to offer her best wishes.

"I figured since I helped them pick everything out, I should drop off a gift," Gloria Holloway said.

She was among dozens of readers who stopped by throughout the evening to catch a glimpse of the bride and groom.

"It's her! It's her!" one woman said when Michelle snuck out to the washroom during the reception. Being the ever-graceful bride, she happily greeted and hugged the voters and invited them to take a peek inside the Compass Room.

Heartfelt speeches at the reception didn't leave a dry eye in the room. Ashley paid tribute to the happy couple in a moving speech.

"Last year was really bad," the 13-year-old said, referring to her mother's battle with cancer. "But Tony was always there for me and Anna ... If I had to pick anyone in the world to be my step-dad, I'd choose you."



TARRAH MILLS/TARRAH MILLS PHOTOGRAPHY

The bridesmaids looked radiant in gowns designed by Marie MacMullan of One Stop Bridal Shop, while the groomsmen cut fine figures in tuxedos provided by Vogue Men's Wear & Tailoring.

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Next to Park's on the Halifax Waterfront 492-1800

Music legend Bob Dylan performs at the Halifax Metro Centre tomorrow night. Tickets to see him are \$56.50 and \$76.50 and are available from www.ticketatlantic.com or by calling 451-1221.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Good, band hit the road

By DEAN LISK
Metro Halifax

It might be 15 years later, but it feels no different from the beginning of his band days, writes musician Matthew Good on his blog.

"For me, I don't feel lost," said Good, who hasn't performed with a band since November, 2005. "It's not something where I have forgotten what to do. I got there the first day of rehearsals and it was like 'Oh, yeah. OK.'"

After a successful solo tour last year to support his acclaimed release *Hospital Music*, Good is heading back on the road — including a stop in Halifax — with a full band in tow.

The Juno-award winner recently released a list of songs they will be playing on this eight week tour, and the selections include works from his time fronting one of Canada's best alternative

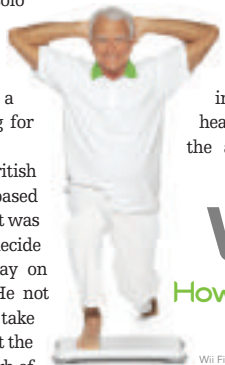
bands during the 1990s, to his deeply personal recent release, *Hospital Music*.

It was written after Good overdosed on an anti-anxiety medication he'd become reliant on following his separation from his wife. He was rushed to the hospital by paramedics and was later diagnosed as having type 2 bipolar disorder.

"It is nice, very nice," said Good about getting to play those solo

works with a band. "I am getting a new feeling for the songs."

The British Columbia-based singer said it was hard to decide what to play on this tour. He not only had to take into account the learning curve of



concert alert

» What: Matthew Good and his Band
» Where: Cunard Centre
» When: Friday, 9 p.m.
» Tickets: \$29.50. Call 1-888-311-9090 or visit www.ticketpro.ca

his new band mates, but also his own ability to remember how to play some of his older works.

While the guys — they include Bluesnoser Stuart Cameron — came into the 10 day rehearsal period knowing the album versions of



Matthew Good is heading out on an eight-week tour with his full band in tow.

Wii Fit

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songs, Good said there was some fine tuning translating those into a live performance.

"It's like a guy's head is so full of information and

you just pop the balloon," Good said. "It's a challenge, we've got you guys second, and I don't like playing bad shows in your town."

"I like your town a lot. That's my problem, I want to go in there and deliver it."

Not necessarily a treasure to watch

National Treasure 2: Book Of Secrets

Stars: Nicolas Cage
Distributor: Disney DVD



Cranford

Stars: Judi Dench
Distributor: BBC DVD



DISNEY'S MARRYING of Indiana Jones with *The Da Vinci Code* will likely be seen as a telling symptom of the simmering paranoia that underlies this moment in history — not nearly as anxious or fearful as the post-Nixon '70s, but a sign that we can't even enjoy an action movie franchise without being reminded of our powerlessness, and the commonplace idea that knowledge is every day disappearing behind locked doors and into the realm of secretive cabals.

This is the only way of explaining how a farrago of



DVD REVIEWS
RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

glimpse at the book in the title — a conspiracy scrapbook collected by the residents of the White House for their eyes only. The book merits its own special feature in the packed bonus disc included with the film, during which we learn that most of the people involved in the production tacitly believe such a thing exists in some form. Chalk it up to Disney's characteristic bloodlessness, but the book ends up playing as a hopeful, not sinister, artifact, probably because it implies that at least someone knows that someone knows the answers to history's questions.

Stitched together from three novellas by the Victorian novelist Elizabeth Gaskell, the BBC miniseries

more online

» For reviews of Penn & Teller, *The Night They Raided Minsky's* and *If It's Tuesday, It Must Be Belgium*, please visit metronews.ca

Cranford delivers a rich, bubbling broth of star-studded melodrama set in a time when, thanks to the uncertainty of medical science, anyone can die at any time, and frequently do, to heart-breaking effect.

It's fitting, then, that one of the central characters of the story is a young doctor who sets up practice in the sleepy English town that gives the series its name, a place that's a functional

matriarchy ruled by a group of women ranging from formidable to ridiculous; his ability to control his fate in their midst is as doubtful as his facility in staving off death.

With a cast that includes Judi Dench, Michael Gambon, Imelda Staunton, Eileen Atkins and the great Philip Glenister from *Life On Mars*, this 5-part series is never less than watchable, and is closer to riveting most of the time, especially when we've been conditioned to the fact that anyone, at any given time, can be carried off by a chill or the effects of an infection.

idol auditions

» Did you try out for Canadian Idol? Highlights from the Halifax auditions will be shown on the show on June 10. The sixth season of the popular TV series begins airing on CTV on June 3.

METRO HALIFAX

concert



Naturally 7 comes back to Halifax

MUSIC A cappella group Naturally 7, which opened for Michael Buble at the Metro Centre in February, is returning to Halifax this summer.

The seven performers specialize in vocal play, where they recreate the sound of instruments using their voices. The group plays at Casino Nova Scotia's Schooner Showroom on July 3 and 4.

Tickets are \$36.50 and go on sale today. Call 451-1221 or visit ticketatlantic.com.

festival

Illmatic Styles return for Busker

PERFORMERS The lineup of the 22nd annual Halifax International Busker Festival will see a return of Illmatic Styles, the Montreal-based group that was featured on last season's America's Got Talent and includes performer Luca Lazy Legz Patuelli.

Among the other performers being featured during the festival — it takes place Aug. 7 through 17 — are America's Got Talent's Calypso Tumblers, four-time world record soccer juggler Victor Rubilar, Broadway performer Rudi Macaggi, and four-man disabled break dance crew Ill-Abilities.

performances

Neptune offers ticket packages

DEALS Neptune Theatre is offering a ticket package, where you can choose from two 2008-09 productions from \$150 for four tickets, two tickets to each performance. Those plays include Disney's *High School Musical*, *Frost/Nixon*, and *Skin Flick*. Visit neptune.theatre.com or call 429-7070.

METRO HALIFAX

» news
In Brief

» **REALITY TV** Country singer Carrie Underwood is the all-time most popular American Idol winner, and dreadlocked Jason Castro was voted the most overrated contestant this season, according to a poll released yesterday by AOL Television. **REUTERS**

» box office

» Following are the Top 10 films at the North American box office for the three-day weekend beginning May 16, according to studio estimates compiled by Reuters:
1. *The Chronicles Of Narnia: Prince Caspian*, \$56.6

million US
2. *Iron Man*, \$31.2 million
3. *What Happens In Vegas*, \$13.8 million
4. *Speed Racer*, \$7.6 million
5. *Baby Mama*, \$4.6 million
6. *Made Of Honor*, \$4.5 million

7. *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*, \$2.5 million
8. *Harold & Kumar: Escape From Guantanamo Bay*, \$1.8 million
9. *The Forbidden Kingdom*, \$1.0 million
10. *The Visitor*, \$687,000

REUTERS



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Tip of the Day: I have yet to see any problem, however complicated, which, when you looked at it the right way, did not become still more complicated. — Paul Anderson



David Cook, left, and David Archuleta.

Down to 2 Davids

Rocker, balladeer vie for title of American Idol

The final American Idol showdown has finally arrived with the captivating rocker pitted against the all-American pretty boy.

But who will be crowned the seventh season's new Idol? Will it be 17-year-old David Archuleta from Murray, Utah? Or will 25-year-old David Cook's rock edge place him in the lead?

Throughout the entire season viewers have learned a lot about both Archuleta, the singing sensation with the over-involved stage dad and Cook, the former bartender from Blue Springs, Mo. And both have equally powerful vocal ranges.

There's no doubt Archuleta would make a great pop star, after all, this is the type of artist all the 16-year-old girls go gaga for. His sweet, sultry-yet-cute look is what makes him so marketable. This aspiring young singer is best known for singing love songs, something he can nail without a hitch — of course that is if he doesn't forget the lyrics.

Archuleta made that mistake earlier on this season, but was able to put the nerves behind him, and come back stronger than before. And though Archuleta is good at playing the balladeer, it does get kind of old.

Archuleta needs to learn how to change things up a bit in order to keep people



ON TV
SANDY CAETANO
sandy.caetano@metronews.ca

hooked — then again, why mess with a good thing?

Cook, on the other hand, keeps viewers on their toes with his interesting performances and unbelievable vocals. Week to week, you never know what to expect in terms of his song choice and what he plans on doing to that song.

It doesn't matter what type of song Cook is given. Whether it's a tune you would hear today's kids bopping their heads to or something taken from the '70s, Cook keeps it fresh. A perfect example was what he did last week with The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face by Roberta Flack — he's a brilliant singer.

His ballsy risks of completely changing the arrangement of a song has worked for him thus far, and might help him win the title of American Idol on Wednesday.

Yet, although Cook is very talented, as we've seen in a previous season with former contestant and Oscar winner Jennifer Hudson, talent doesn't always get you the win.

Sandy Caetano covers reality shows and has interviewed stars like Leanne Rimes, Lionel Richie, Paul Anka, Good Charlotte and more.



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Singer/actress Jennifer Hudson's self-titled solo album has been set to make its debut in September. Her first single, *Spotlight*, will hit radio on June 9 and be made available for digital download the following day.

E!NEWS ONLINE

Gossip Girl meets hype machine

THE LAST BIG THING: Last month, New York magazine put Gossip Girl on the cover, with a long piece full of slack-jawed, over-written prose inoculated with just enough sarcasm to evoke the you-were-there-at-the-cultural-Ground-Zero mood that the magazine's best features once did so well, back when they printed the cover story that became the basis for Saturday Night Fever.

The story, written by Jessica Pressler and Chris Rovzar, gets off to a breathless start with a group of bridge-and-tunnel teens on the prowl one Manhattan weekend, going into a frenzy by a sighting of Penn Badgely, who plays Dan Humphrey on the CW network show. The writers



IDIOT BOX
RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

shift their tone to qualify their love of the show as ironic, at least at first. "At first we cloaked our adoration in irony," Pressler and Rovzar write. "It's awesomely bad," we explained to friends. "You know, like Showgirls. Or a Bloomin' Onion."

"But before long we were covering the show pretty much exhaustively on the Daily Intelligencer, the blog we write on nymag.com."

First of all, I don't know what a Bloomin' Onion is either, but my alarm bells go off when I realize that I'm reading something written by people who write a blog that appears on the website of a print publication.

These are the ambitious young freelancers who've lucked out and landed a contract gig doing the web-only content that the publishers and top editors don't really read — or even understand — but were told they need for credibility's sake to seem like they know what they're talking about when they discuss "future strategies" and "new media" with Market-ing magazine.

The writers who get these gigs are usually cultural omnivores, host to a

variety of enthusiasms, active and latent, who need to be able to say that something is hot when asked questions like, "So, what's hot?" by people who report to the people who sign their paycheque.

In the New York piece, we're told, for instance, that Gossip Girl is "the Greatest Teen Drama of All Time," that it's "changing the very model of a successful TV show," and that it "offers profound social commentary."

"The show mocks our superficial fantasies while satisfying them," writes Pressler and Rovzar, "allowing us to partake in the over-the-top pleasures of the irresponsible superrich without anxiety or guilt or moralizing. It's class warfare as blood sport."

Well, since you put it that way. Of course, if by "changing the model of a successful TV show" you mean getting mediocre ratings, then the revolution is now, according to a piece in last week's National Post, which quoted Rovzar admitting that the show is "overhyped."

"I don't mean that in quality," Rovzar said, "because obviously I love the show and I think it's a great time, but it is overhyped in terms of success. It's not a huge success at all ... It's a certain very Internet-savvy group of people that are really really excited about the show."

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera. He walked 47 miles of barbed wire and has a cobra snake for a necktie.

DeGeneres, de Rossi to wed

Comedian and talk show host Ellen DeGeneres plans to marry her long-time partner, actress Portia de Rossi, after a California court ruling allowing gay marriage.

"I am announcing I am getting married," DeGeneres, 50, told the audience during the taping of her TV show Thursdays.

To wild cheers and a standing ovation, DeGeneres said she was very excited at Thursday's ruling by the California Supreme Court overturning a state ban on gay marriage.

"Thank you. I'll tell you who the lucky guy is soon," she joked. DeGeneres did not mention de Rossi, 35, but pictures showed the former Ally McBeal actress in the audience, smiling and applauding.

"It is something of course that we have wanted to do and we wanted to be legal, and we are just very, very excited," DeGeneres said. DeGeneres and de Rossi have been a familiar couple in Hollywood for about four years, appearing at red carpet events together. DeGeneres previously had a relationship with actress Anne Heche.

REUTERS

casting

Canadian actress to join CSI

VEGAS-BOUND Canadian actress Lauren Lee Smith is joining CSI: Crime Scene Investigation next season, filling the void left by the departure of Jorja Fox.

Details about her character are sketchy, but she will play a new sleuth joining the graveyard shift of the Las Vegas crimebusters.

The 27-year-old Vancouver native previously played a chef during three seasons of the lesbian drama *The L Word*.

REUTERS

critics' corner

Dancing With the Stars

Whose footwork is fanciest? Whose moves are smoothest? That is up to the viewers and the judges to decide, and their chosen couple is crowned on tonight's results show. Expect some eye-popping dance maneuvers as the result of all that training pays off for the winners in the season finale. Whether you're excited or not will depend upon whether your favorite is still in the running. 10 PM on ABC, CJCH



The Immortal Beaver

No, not Jerry Mathers. Nor is it the dam-dwelling, waterproof variety. The "beav" reference in this new documentary is the airplane type called the de Havilland Beaver — one of which has spent decades deteriorating in the Arizona desert. Test pilot Ross Ban-nock talks about flying the prototype, and actor Harrison Ford also en-thuses about the plane. But the real excitement comes when the abandoned aircraft is rescued and restored. 3 PM on HIST

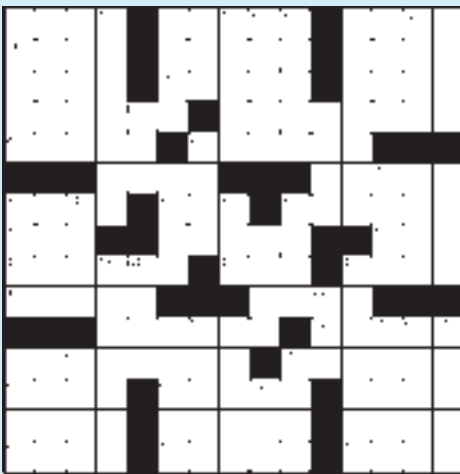
Shark

If it's the season finale, it must be time for Wayne Callison (Billy Campbell) to make a return appearance. At the end of last season, Stark (James Woods) had another chance to put Callison, a serial killer whom he'd earlier failed to convict, away for good. Now Wayne's escaped from prison with revenge on his mind and Stark's daughter, Julie (Danielle Panabaker), in his sights. Uh-oh. 8 PM on C1H; 11 PM on CBS

NCIS

Sorry, but it's happening again. Someone on the NCIS team is not going to survive the season finale. But the surviving members aren't going to let the killer get away, even if it means putting their own lives in jeopardy — and, of course, it does. Mark Harmon, Michael Weatherly, David McCallum and Pauley Perrette star in the two-hour episode "Judgment Day, Part 1 and Part 2." 9 PM on CBS, C1H

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	2	2	2	CBC-F	Providence (SC)	Squelettes	Tout	Beautés désespérées	France	Téléjournal		
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	CBS News	Insider	Entertain	NCIS 'Judgement Day' (N)			Shark (N)
	69	69	69	CTM	TVA 18h	Sûr-salé	Rénovation	Filles	Caméra	La Grande Évasion		TVA 22h
	6	6	6	CHIF	Entertain	ET	Shark (N)	NCIS 'Judgement Day' (N)				News (N)
	9	9	9	CJCH	eTalk	Jeopardy!	Law & Order: SVU	American Idol	Dancing With the Stars			
	10	10	10	ELTV	(6) EastLink Television			Podium TV	EastLink Television			
	36	36	36	FOX	Simpsons	King-Hill	Two Men	Two Men	American Idol	Heil's Kitchen		Fox First
primetime	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Extra (N)	Moments	Moments	Law & Order: SVU		Law SVU
	29	29	29	NW	BBC News	Business	News (N)	Newman	The Hour	National		National
	4	4	4	PBS-B	News-Lehrer	Business	Boston	One One	Nova (N) (DVS)	Frontline (DVS)		Triumph
	35	35	35	PBS-D	News-Lehrer	Business	BBC News	Nova (N) (DVS)	Supernatural Science	Frontline		Frontline
	68	68	68	TQS	Journal	Flash	Le golf	Le Destin d'Audrey (2003, Drame)		Sexy Cam		Journal
	23	23	23	68	BNN	Stars	Business News	Market	Wopokel	Talk Tax		Market
	18	18	18	CNN	The Situation Room	Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center	Larry King Live	Cooper		Cooper
	54	54	54	GOLF	The Turn	PGA Tour	Memorial	Golf	Approach	GolfCentri		Big Break
	52	52	52	RSE	Sportsnet	Hockey	CHL Hockey: Memorial Cup -- Galtine vs. Spokane					Sportsnet
	55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey	Game On	Score Update	Score Update	Score Update	Score Update		Tonight
news	45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips		Pinks	Pass Time	Thunder	Tuner	Low Life	Sup Bikes
	53	53	53	TSN	Off-Record	Sports	Hockey	Interrupt	NBA Basketball: Eastern Conf. Final Game 1			
	43	43	43	FAM	Zoezy 101	Life Derek	So Raven	Smart Guy	Suite Life	Sadie	Montana	Life Derek
	44	44	44	TOON	6teen	Johnny T	George	Road Run	Scooby	Futurama	Tripping	Tripping
	26	26	26	TREE	Fill	Backyard	Ni Hao	Night Grdn	Wiggle	Franklin	Little Bear	Spider
	27	27	27	YTV	Drake	Malcolm	Prank Ptl		Fries	Monster	Futurama	Shadow
	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files		CSI: Miami		The First 48			Simmons
	70	70	70	APTN	First Talk	News	Wilp	La Course	Regards	Presser	Guides	Tears
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		The Boot		The Wash ★ (2001, Comedy)	Dr. Dre		College
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal	Bazart	Videos		Cry-Baby ★★ (1990)		Dick Dale	Harper
sports	97	97	97	CLT	Help TV		The West Wing		Killer Next Door	Psychic	Evidence	Traders
	25	25	25	CMT	Chevy Cross Canada Countdown		Beyond Chance		Beyond Chance	Reba	Hope	Home Imp.
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comics!	Air Farce	22 Min	Laughs	Corner	Simpsons	S. Park
	153	153	153	COURT	Missing Link		Trace Evidence		The Practice		Killer Forensics	Evidence
	38	38	38	DISC	Mega Builders		Daily Planet (N)		How-Made	How-Made	Smash Lab Insulation	Deadliest
	34	34	34	HGTV	Holmes	Holmes	House	Buy Me	Designer	Design	Colin & Justin	Green
	46	46	46	HIST	Disasters	Mastermind	NCIS		Digging for the Truth		The Immortal Beaver	NCIS
	17	17	17	MM	Punk'd	Born to Be	The O.C.		MuchTopTens		Gone Wild	Stars Wild
	19	19	19	MMM	Profile		mmmtop10.com	Uncovered	Listed		Ringo Starr	Hogan
	201	201	201	M1	(7:15) Young Triffle (2006, Comedy)				Treatment	Spider-Man 3 (2007, Action)		
family	48	48	48	OLN	Don't Forget		R Wise	Videos	Survivorman	Odyssey	Surf Patrol	Adventure
	51	51	51	PEACH	Friends	Seinfeld	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Cellular ★★ (2004, Suspense)			Frasier
	206	206	206	PIX	Star Trek V: Frontier		Jacob Two Two Meets the Hooded Fang		Running Scared (1986)			
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct (SC)		Dominique Poirier		Grands reportages		Le Téléjournal (SC)	Le Club
	39	39	39	SHOW	Trailer	Billable	ReGenesis		Blue Murder		Trailer	Kenny
	40	40	40	SLICE	Three Takes		Women	Debt Part	Newlywed	Matchmak	Hair Challenge	Hestic
	47	47	47	SPACE	The Sentinel		Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Voyager		Star Trek Gen.	Plax
	14	14	14	SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scn		CSI: NY (HDTV)		CSI: Crime Scn		CSI: Crime Scn	CSI
	98	98	98	STAR	eTalk	Treatment	Look Like	Hollywood	TMZ	eTalk	Bon Jovi	Tonight
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		The New Detectives		Dateline Myst.		48 Hr-Evidence	48 Hours
cable variety	34	34	34	TROP	Inside Box	Vanity	That News	That News	ET	What	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld
	20	20	20	TV5	Champion	J'mal FR2	Toute une histoire		Pékin express La Sibérie		Allo, Allo! On the	Quantum Leap
	28	28	28	W	Mysterious Ways		Murder, She Wrote		Maxed	Style Jury	Kim	Style Jury
	22	22	22	W	Shopping	House	Will-Grace	Friends	Maxed	Style Jury	Kim	Style Jury
	251	251	251	WGN	My Wife	Jim	Two Men	Fam. Guy	MLB Baseball Chicago Cubs at Houston Astros			



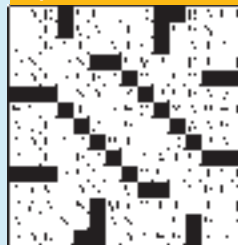
down»

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Drum or antelope | 23 Albright or Montez | movie princess |
| 2 Fridge maker | 25 Fat cat's victim | 46 Traded |
| 3 Transplant | 27 Figure-skating jump | 49 Codgers' queries |
| 4 Nail polishes | 29 Fab Four name | 51 Works, as yeast |
| 5 Freeway cloggers | 30 "Butch Cassidy" role | 52 Inner self |
| 6 Fish-to-be | 31 Ticket info | 53 Grants |
| 7 Intern | 32 Continuously | 55 Corn-chip name |
| 8 Newlywed | 33 Wrinkle | 56 Saturn's largest moon |
| 9 Happy-hour perch | 34 Like a pit-tance | 57 Condition |
| 10 Bank examiner | 36 Tax shelter | 58 Venison |
| 11 Santa —, Calif. | 37 Enthusiastic | 59 Still |
| 12 Knight's weapon | 40 Gooney | 60 Large lizard |
| 13 Taiga animals | 43 Fish hawks | 61 Whirlpool |
| 21 Previously | 44 Spunky | 64 Naval off. |

across»

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Make public | 26 Pencil point | 50 Software theft |
| 5 Honey holders | 28 Swings along | 54 Tool handles |
| 10 Zenith | 32 Boulevard liners | 58 Bad headache |
| 14 Shaman's quest | 35 Livy's dozen | 61 — de corps |
| 15 Stave off | 37 Martial art | 62 Adams or McClurg |
| 16 Eurasian mountains | 38 Contend | 63 Did the exterior |
| 17 Wine valley | 39 Like a haunted house | 65 Gyro shell |
| 18 Boom box | 41 Tony-winner — Hagen | 66 Friendly nation |
| 19 Pond swimmer | 42 Register | 67 Make corrections |
| 20 Dwarfs | 45 King beater | 68 Coup d'— |
| 22 Adores | 46 Strip of wood | 69 Herbal brews |
| 24 Tom Mix movie | 47 Ms. Witherspoon | 70 Smart-alecky |
| 25 Nocturnal wildcat | 48 Was aware of | 71 Ready to serve |

previous answer



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Previous Answer

The answer is organically.

	4	7	2		5			6
	3	5						8
1			9					
4	7				8			
	2	6				4	3	
			7				8	1
					9			4
2						5	7	
7			4		2	1	6	

instructions»

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

solve time»

Under 13 minutes
 13-17 minutes
 17-21
 21-25
 More than 25

Genius
 Scholar
 Smart
 Pretty good
 Keep practising

previous answer

8	4	6	2	1	3	5	7	9
3	5	9	8	7	6	2	1	4
7	2	1	9	5	4	8	6	3
2	6	3	5	4	1	9	8	7
5	9	8	7	6	2	3	4	1
1	7	4	3	8	9	6	2	5
9	3	7	4	2	8	1	5	6
4	1	2	6	3	5	7	9	8
6	8	5	1	9	7	4	3	2

HOROSCOPE



ARIES | March 21-April 20

Being too sociable will cause delays. Nostalgia will force you to remember past loves. Insecurity will be worked with to create willpower.



TAURUS | April 21-May 21

People understand what you're going through. Look for a cloud's silver lining. An unusual reaction cannot be explained.



GEMINI | May 22-June 21

Your social life can get more exciting. Have some happy times when someone invites you out. Trust your own common sense.



CANCER | June 22-July 22

It's time to withstand an emotional shift. Try to take over a complicated matter. Difficulties will arise through a lack of trust.



LEO | July 23-Aug. 23

Don't sacrifice your ethics for material gain. People are gossiping about a recent ordeal. Anxiety attacks need more astute care.



VIRGO | Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Take a break with your quiet friends. Expect bad news to be followed by good. Listen to your inner feelings when people act strangely.



LIBRA | Sep. 23-Oct. 23

Don't lose faith in a loyal person. Interesting news will convey a solution to a problem. Don't reveal too much about your past.



SCORPIO | Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Minimize the impact of a woman's sarcasm. You'll get in the way of progress. A foolish escapade creates laughter.



SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Someone is released from an obsession. You'll get to take your turn at being funny. Send a note to express your concern.



CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 20

A romance with a rude female will be infuriating. You will hesitate before implementing plans. Astonish others with cunning moves.



AQUARIUS | Jan. 21-Feb. 18

You're magnetic because your confidence has grown. Bring out your rowdiness. Someone takes advantage of a good chance.



PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

A gullible person will believe a lie. Do not let anything get the better of you. Don't let on if you get bored with a storyteller. AVATAR VENUS

This Day IN HISTORY

May 20, 1609: Shakespeare's Sonnets first published in London, perhaps illicitly, by Thomas Thorpe.
May 20, 1873: Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis receive a U.S. patent for blue jeans with copper rivets.
May 20, 1920: Montreal station XWA broadcasts the

first regularly scheduled radio programming in North America.

May 20, 1932: Amelia Earhart takes off from Newfoundland for the first solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean by a female pilot, landing in Ireland.

WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Halifax weather



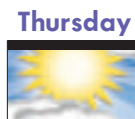
Partly cloudy.
17°



Variable.
6°



Variable.
15° / 5°



Partly cloudy.
15° / 5°



Showers.
12° / 4°

Temperature
Normals
High: 14.4°
Low: 5°

Records
High: 22.8°/1959
Low: -0.8°/1987

Sunrise: 5:40 a.m.
Sunset: 8:41 p.m.
Moonset: 5:24 a.m.
Moonrise: 9:52 p.m.

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celebritybuzz



Pete, Ashlee marry

Singer Ashlee Simpson Saturday married her fiancé, rocker Pete Wentz, Reuters reports. People magazine is saying.

Simpson's father hosted the wedding at his Encino, Calif., home, performing a nondenominational ceremony in front of about 150 guests, the magazine said on its website, quoting a representative of the couple.

"We're delighted to confirm that Pete Wentz and Ashlee Simpson were married this evening in front of family and close friends," said

the spokesperson.

Simpson wore an ivory lace wedding gown by Monique Lhuillier and jewels by William Noble.

Wedding planner Mindy Weiss helped Simpson have her dream nuptials: An Alice In Wonderland-themed reception featured a wedding cake with a top hat, tea pot, stop watch and a pot of flowers on top. Black beauty roses made up the centrepieces and guests were served Rose Veuve Clicquot champagne followed by a sit-down dinner and dancing to a deejay, reports People.

Celebrity guests included socialite Nicole Richie and singer Joel Madden, as well as

actor Donald Faison with girlfriend CaCee Cobb.

Simpson had told People that she was never the type to dream about her wedding when she was growing up, but changed her tune once she got engaged. "I got really into it," Simpson said.

Simpson and Wentz announced their engagement in April and have been romantically linked since 2006. The marriage is the first for both.

Simpson, 23, released her third music album, Bittersweet World, in April. She is the younger sister of singer and actress Jessica Simpson, who acted as maid of honour at the wedding.

Wentz, 28, co-founded Fall Out Boy in 2001. The band has since built a loyal following with albums like its popular 2005 release, From Under The Cork Tree.

Metro News Services



Miley defends song

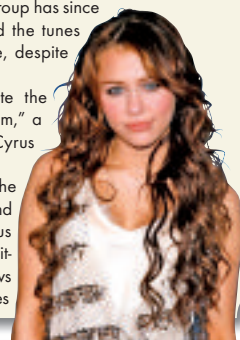
Singer/actress Miley Cyrus has hit back at accusations she ripped off a Los Angeles band's song because she doesn't write any of her own music, imdb.com reports.

Los Angeles band Lustra fired claims that Cyrus' song Rockstar is a carbon copy of their Scotty Doesn't Know tune.

Fans alerted the band — whose track appeared on the soundtrack to the 2004 movie Eurotrip — to Cyrus' song-similarities. The group has since reportedly determined the tunes are virtually the same, despite mismatching lyrics.

"She doesn't write the songs — she sings them," a spokesperson for Cyrus says.

According to The New York Post, the band "is considering various options to rectify this situation." Metro News Services



Brooke adopts girl

Grey's Anatomy actress Brooke Smith has adopted a baby girl from Ethiopia, People.com reports.

It is the second daughter for Smith, 40, who has a five-year-old daughter, Fanny, with her cinematographer husband Stephen Lubensky.

Smith, who is best known for her role in Silence Of The Lambs and now plays Dr. Erica Hahn on Grey's Anatomy, told People magazine in October that she and her husband were considering adopting.

"You know, why not?" Smith said, adding that she and Lubensky have travelled to Africa several times, and filmed a documentary on conservationists in Zimbabwe together.

"We still might end up there some time," she said.

Metro News Services



Getty Images photos

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Kate, Lance step out

Actress Kate Hudson is dating Lance Armstrong, reports say.

Hudson, who was recently broke up with actor Owen Wilson, spent a romantic weekend with the seven-time Tour de France cycling champion at his home in Austin, Tex.

"Kate and Lance have been dating for a couple of weeks. She and Lance are both physical, passionate people — she's never been happier," said a source close to the couple.

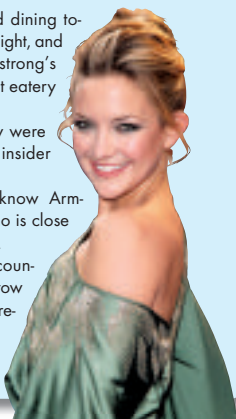
The pair were spotted dining together in Austin on Friday night, and enjoyed a meal with Armstrong's three children at a different eatery on Saturday.

"They looked like they were having fun," a restaurant insider said.

Hudson first got to know Armstrong through Wilson, who is close friends with the sportsman.

Armstrong split from country singer fiancée Sheryl Crow in 2007, after a three-year relationship.

Metro News Services



Bosworth on thinness

Kate Bosworth is placing the blame for her once painfully bony figure on her breakup with Orlando Bloom, MSN Entertainment reports.

In an interview with Harper's Bazaar (via Australia's Daily Telegraph), she says the implosion of their romance after four years together left her so stressed out she had no appetite, resulting in her thin form and prompting headlines questioning her health.

"It was my first very difficult breakup with someone I loved deeply and no matter how much I ate, it didn't matter," says the actress, who began dating model James Rousseau not long after she and Bloom parted ways.

"I hold all my emotions in the pit of my stomach, so it became difficult to eat. I remember going to a nutritionist and asking, 'Do I have a parasite?' " Bosworth says.

Metro News Services



Diva Scarlett misses festival?

Scarlett Johansson never made it to the Cannes Film Festival premiere of her new movie on Saturday thanks to her excessive demands, Britain's Daily Mail newspaper reports.

The Vicky Cristina Barcelona star reportedly insisted on having her own \$7,800 US-a-day make-up artist and a room at a hotel 48 kilometres outside of Cannes, while director Woody Allen and co-stars Penelope Cruz and Rebecca Hall stayed in the city in order to be close to the premiere, the New York Daily News reports.

The movie's studio reportedly balked at the demands and left Johansson, 23, behind in New York.

"Penelope and Rebecca were going to be working very hard and it wasn't acceptable that Scarlett would be having to come in from that distance every day, most likely turning up late and it would have thrown schedules into a lot of confusion," an executive connected with the film said.

The executive also said Allen, who has directed Johansson in three films, was "a little upset that she wasn't being a team player."

The film received a 10-minute standing ovation after the screening.

Metro News Services



Getty Images photos

Colin sparks health fears

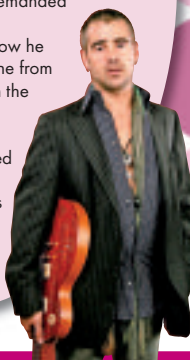
Actor Colin Farrell has ignited fears for his health after he appeared at a press conference looking gaunt, but he insists he's merely shedding weight for a film role, imdb.com reports.

Farrell, 31, shocked reporters when he showed up to promote his upcoming movie Triage — in which he plays a war reporter in 1990s Bosnia — during a trip to Spain.

"I lost weight because my role demanded it. It was all very healthy," he said.

Farrell did not elaborate as to how he lost the weight, instead quoting a line from the Scott Anderson novel on which the movie is based: "Once his beard was gone, he saw that his face had become drawn. He pressed at the hollows beneath his eyes, the pronounced nubs of his cheek bones."

Metro News Services



Jessica talks motherhood

Despite the fatigue pregnant Jessica Alba feels, she welcomes the fact her expectant state has calmed her down, People.com reports.

"At the end of the day I am so tired I can't function or speak and my eyes glaze over," Alba, 27, tells Fit Pregnancy magazine for its June/July issue, "but this pregnancy has seriously mellowed me out, which is nice. I've been going, going, going for so long, it feels nice not to take things so seriously."

And though she finds herself craving citrus, when it comes to what she'll allow as a mother, she says: "I don't want to be my child's best friend; I want to be a mom. But I do want my child to come to me when they have problems and need to talk, so it's going to be about treading that line."

Metro News Services



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